

Prisoners on parole go abroad for work

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Prisoners released on parole are being granted permission to work abroad because of lack of jobs in Britain. The absence of proper supervision of the successful applicants who go overseas is a concern of the Parole Board and published yesterday in its annual report.

The report says: "The supervision of a parolee by a probation officer during the parole period is an essential part of the scheme."

Asked which people are given permission, Lord Harris of Greenwich, the board's chairman, told *The Times*: "We look at the circumstances of each case: how he has responded to supervision, whether there is a genuine job offer. We are in the business of rehabilitation. If a man is to be employed rather than unemployed, we think that is a good thing to be."

Lord Harris could not say how many prisoners on parole had been allowed to work abroad but they were "more than a handful". They are believed to be mainly in Western Europe.

The report speaks of "an increase in the number of requests from people on parole to travel abroad in order to take up offers of work". The board recognizes that to grant permission inevitably

interferes with the supervisory aspect of parole."

The report says that where the board thinks the risk to be acceptable, "it is right to take account of the licensee's prospects of rehabilitation. On balance, it is likely that unsupervised employment would be more conducive to this end than supervised unemployment, but the board will continue to consider each case solely on its merits."

Without supervision, however, the board cannot know if the prisoner infringes the terms of his licence and should be recalled to prison. Mr Roy Jenkins, then Home Secretary, assured the Commons in December, 1966, that the power to revoke a licence would be exercised on the basis of reports reaching the Home Secretary about the prisoner's behaviour, and, in particular, from the supervising probation officer.

While permission is being given to some prisoners to take what the report calls "unsupervised employment" abroad, others, not so lucky, who remain in Britain risk being recalled to prison if they are "out of touch". It was the biggest single reason last year for recall of prisoners serving determinate sentences.

Out of 445 recalled, 214 were for being out of touch and in some cases for other breaches

of licence conditions; and of those, 69 had committed further offences while at large.

The report says that the number of prisoners granted parole in 1980 rose to a level achieved only in 1977, and there had been no rise in the rate of recall to prison: 8.7 per cent of prisoners with a determinate sentence finally recommended for parole.

In 1980 the 5,077 prisoners granted parole represented 50.4 per cent of the cases considered.

The report says that ministers have been invited to consider options designed to effect the earlier referral to the board of higher risk, longer sentence cases.

If the Government implements its idea of an early release scheme for prisoners serving shorter sentences, that could reduce the board's work, leaving extra time to consider more difficult cases.

Report of the Parole Board, 1980 (Stationery Office, £4).

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, announced in the Commons yesterday that the extension of the tougher regimes pilot project to Easton Hall junior detention centre, Derbyshire (for 14 to 16-year-olds) and Haslar senior detention centre, near Gosport, Hampshire (for 17 to 20-year-olds) will be introduced in September.



Bridging the gap: Police bringing a patient to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary yesterday when ambulances in the city went on the first of their 24-hour lightning strikes.

Rates rising faster than income tax

By Christopher Warman, Local Government Correspondent

An analysis of local authority rate yields in the last five years shows that rates have risen slightly faster than income tax but only two-thirds as much as value-added tax yields.

The figures are included in rating statistics published yesterday by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Between 1974-75 and 1979-80, the yield from rates increased from £3,245m to £5,837m, income tax from £10,271m to £20,599m, and VAT from £2,506m to £8,179m.

The accompanying table indicates that while the rate yield has increased by 111 per cent, income tax yield is up by 101 per cent and VAT by 226 per cent over the five-year period.

The statistics show that while domestic ratepayers bear 48.5 per cent of the rate burden throughout England and Wales, the figure for householders in inner London is only 25.9 per cent, compared with 55.7 per cent in outer London, 49.4 per cent in the metropolitan districts, 54.3 per cent in English shire districts and 47.3 per cent in Wales.

The final percentage paid by householders is slightly smaller in each case because of domestic rate relief.

Industrial users in inner London pay only 3.1 per cent, and the main burden here is on offices, which provide 37.5 per cent, compared with an overall average of 8.5 per cent. Industry overall pays 10.7 per cent—10.4 per cent in outer London, 14.5 per cent in the metropolitan districts, 11.4 per cent in the shire districts and 15.1 per cent in Wales.

The total number of hereditaments in England and Wales at April 1, 1980, was 22.1m. Local authorities sent out 4.1m reminders to pay, and issued just over 1m summonses for non-payment, of which 496,717 led to court hearings and 287,437 led to distress warrants being passed to bailiffs.

On average rates cost 1.6 per cent of the total yield to collect. (Rate Collection Statistics, 1979-80 Actuals, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, 1, Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HS, £10.)

INCREASE IN TAXES			
	Rates	tax	VAT
1974-75	100	100	100
1975-76	130	148	138
1976-77	142	168	150
1977-78	161	170	169
1978-79	180	183	193
1979-80	211	201	326

King and Thatcher condemn raid

By David Spanier, Richard Owen and Craig Seton

King Khalid of Saudi Arabia had substantive discussions on the Middle East with Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday during his state visit to Britain.

The talks, which lasted an hour, took as their starting point the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear plant and its serious consequences.

The Israeli action is seen by the Saudis as the greatest possible outrage, as King Khalid made clear. The Prime Minister had already made her views known in the Commons and was able to assure the King of Britain's strong condemnation.

Further discussions may be held today between Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and Prince Sultan, the Saudi Defence Minister, who both attended yesterday's meeting. Prince Saud, the Saudi Foreign Minister, is understood to be in Baghdad for the gathering of Arab foreign ministers.

With Britain taking over the presidency of the European Economic Community next month, the Saudis are concerned that Britain should give a strong lead in pursuing European diplomatic efforts in the Middle East. But until the repercussions of the Israeli

attack have been fully registered in the United Nations and the Middle East, the Europeans may be forced to mark time.

Lord Carrington has been a principal supporter of the European role, as the Saudis appreciate, and is anxious to make a contribution. The EEC is due to take stock of its Middle East efforts at the end of June.

The Downing Street talks were followed by a lunch for about 60 people given in King Khalid's honour by Mrs Thatcher. Among the guests were bankers and industrialists, representatives from Asprey's, the jewellers, the British Falcon Club, the Jockey Club and National Stud and other walks of life likely to be of interest to the Saudis.

The menu was avocado and lobster salad, followed by chicken breast with honey and almonds, and bombe Alaska with black cherries. Red and white wine was served to the British guests, and fruit juice or smatina (sour milk) to the Saudis.

Last night the King attended a reception and banquet at Guildhall where the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Ronald Gardner-Thorpe, said it was a source of great pride that the "great

institutions, banks and business houses" of London had been able to take part in Saudi Arabia's thriving economic development.

King Khalid in his reply referred to the visit of his predecessor, King Faisal, to London in 1967 and said that his own visit to what he called "your great metropolis" was yet another step towards reinforcing the strong relationship between Saudi Arabia and Great Britain.

This morning he will leave Buckingham Palace by helicopter and fly to the National Stud at Newmarket for a short visit before lunching at the Jockey Club there.

The Saudis are becoming increasingly interested in horse-racing and thoroughbred. The King will be shown the four stables in residence, Mill Reef, Grundy, Blakeney and Star Appeal, three of them Derby winners.

Two hours after the luncheon, the King will return to Buckingham Palace and tonight he will give a banquet at Claridge's. Tomorrow he will leave Heathrow in his personal Boeing 747. Court Circular, page 18

Scarman appeals for cooperation

By Lucy Hodges

Lord Scarman, chairman of the Brixton riot inquiry, which starts on Monday, appealed for cooperation yesterday. A call from the Brixton Defence Campaign for people to boycott the inquiry would help neither Brixton nor the nation, he said.

There are signs, however, that the call is having some effect. Last night Lambeth Community Relations Council was reconsidering its decision to give evidence.

In a statement published yesterday Lord Scarman said it was not a police inquiry but an inquiry into policing and the immunity against prosecution given to those appearing before the inquiry was as wide as any immunity granted in similar inquiries.

"I have not known it lead to victimisation or to be inadequate as a protection for those who give evidence", he said.

"I also intend that evidence given at hearings of the inquiry

will avoid the identification of individuals. Moreover, hearsay evidence will be allowed, so that it will be possible for leaders of the community to give evidence on behalf of others without the risk of the latter being identified."

Third, the issue of identification did not arise in phase two of the inquiry, on the underlying causes of the riot, because Lord Scarman said he intended to conduct that phase on the basis of written statements. He added that he would also meet people from different sections of the Brixton community.

This is the first time Lord Scarman has talked about informal meetings and they are likely to be welcomed. It has been made clear that the inquiry would not hear from Brixton's youths, some of whom were involved in the riot, unless he made such a move.

The youths say they are frightened that if they are identified they will be beaten up by the police.

Lord Scarman also answers critics who have asked what good can come out of the inquiry. He says the inquiry is independent, and there will be no whitewash "but only a conscientious search for the truth and a solution".

The inquiry would give Brixton a chance to be heard nationally and to point the way to the solution.

Lord Scarman said the response from the public so far had been heartening. More than 150 people and organizations have offered to give evidence.

The Brixton Defence Campaign is a body which aims to represent the Brixton community and which last week prepared a long statement on why the inquiry should be boycotted.

Body was hidden under floor

From Our Correspondent, Sheffield

Terence Rogerson, aged 26, rebelled against the dominance of Mrs Emily Ball, a widow, aged 72, and killed her.

He hid her body under floorboards at her home, covered it with concrete and pretended she was still alive, continuing to collect her pension.

Mr Rogerson, a South Yorkshire County Council highways surveyor, of Macaulay Crescent, Armthorpe, Doncaster, pleaded guilty yesterday to murdering Mrs Ball of Dore Lane, Bentley, Doncaster.

Mr Justice Mustill at Sheffield Crown Court sentenced him to life imprisonment. Mr Frank Muller QC, for the Crown, said Mrs Ball was killed in her bedroom last July and buried at the bottom of the stairs.

Mrs Ball seems to have taken a liking to Mr Rogerson and he visited the house nearly every day, doing odd jobs", Mr Muller said. He let people believe he was her grandson.

He tried to suppress the foul smell of the body with fly spray, but neighbours noted the odour and told the police, who went to the house last November.

Mr Rogerson told police she was getting at him and he hit her with a hammer.

Mr Harry O'Neill QC, for the defence, said Mr Rogerson was "a likable, pleasant young man, who panicked".

Rampton nurse cleared

From Our Correspondent, Nottingham

Harry Dexter, a Rampton nurse, who was said to have struck a brain-damaged patient, was cleared by a jury at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Dexter, aged 59, was acquitted of a charge of ill-treating Mr Richard Winnik, aged 27, who is mentally ill and an epileptic.

Mr David Wilcock, for the prosecution, said that Mr Dexter hit Mr Winnik on the

ear in the hospital's teaching unit on February 5, 1979, because he had been cheeky to a remedial teacher.

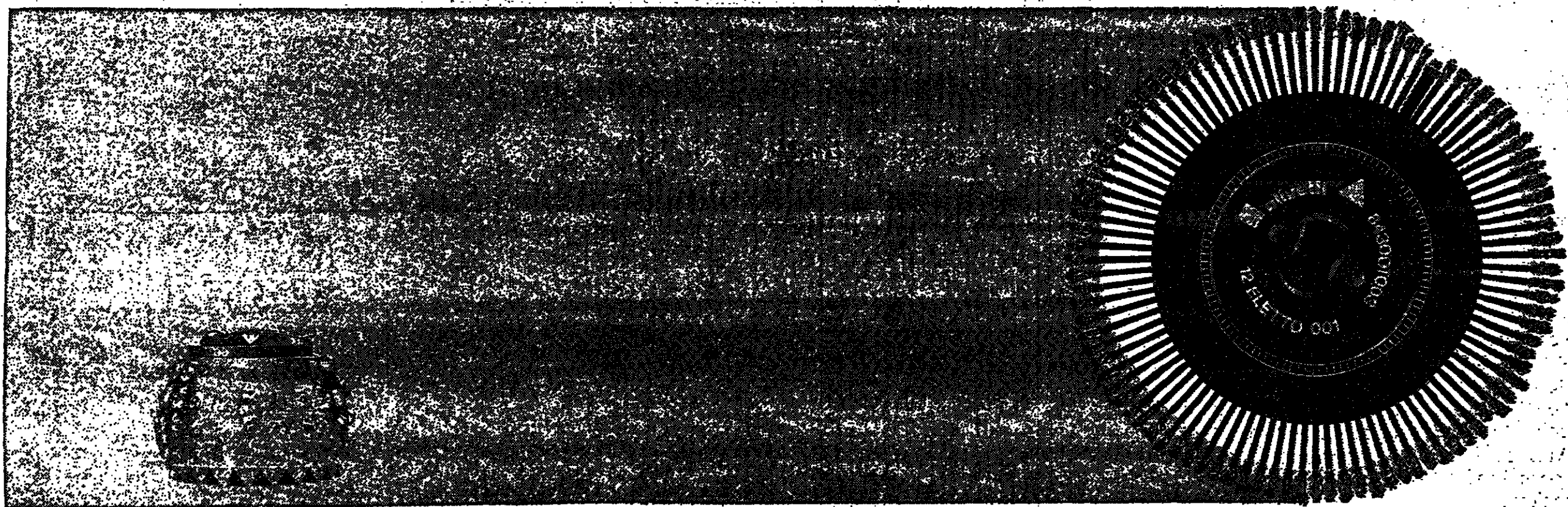
Mr Dexter said he caught the patient by the collar and told him not to be silly. "It was only a trivial incident," he said.

Mr Dexter is the third nurse to be acquitted by courts since a police investigation at the high-security hospital.

NURSES TOLD 6% IS THE LIMIT

Nurses' leaders were told yesterday that no extra money is available to improve their 6 per cent pay offer.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said higher pay awards for public sector workers, however deserving, could not be paid without cutting essential services. The nursing organisations are to ask their members if they wish to continue negotiating within the 6 per cent cash limit.



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Whitelaw attacks political control of police

From Arthur Osman, Eastbourne

The stage is set for a clash at Eastbourne today between chief constables and Labour councillors anxious to tighten controls on police work. Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, yesterday gave a firm warning about political interference with the police.

Mr Whitelaw told the joint conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities: "I think most people in this country would agree that it is highly desirable that the enforcement of the criminal law should not be subject to political control or influence."

"As Home Secretary I cannot give direction to chief constables on operational matters and neither can police authorities. As practical politicians most of us would not want this power."

"I do not believe the majority of people in this country would welcome or would tolerate the situation in which local or national politicians could direct the police operations or influence decisions on who should be prosecuted for a criminal offence. And, let us be clear, the kind of powers over the police which are being sought in some quarters would make this possible."

"The present constitutional arrangements for the police service are designed to minimize the risk of political control or interference of this kind."

Mr Whitelaw recalled that last year he called for police authorities to see themselves not just as providers of resources but as a means whereby the chief constable could give account of his policing policy to the community's elected representatives.

Stern seeks release from £100m bankruptcy

William George Stern, aged 45, who has been described as the world's biggest bankrupt with debts of more than £100m applied for discharge at London Bankruptcy Court yesterday.

Mr John O'Reilly, the Official Receiver, said Mr Stern went bankrupt in 1978 with debts estimated at £104m. Extra claims had come in and the debts were now estimated at £118,690,524. Mr Stern, of West Heath Avenue, Golders Green, London, was said to have assets of £211,982. Mr O'Reilly said on that basis a nominal dividend could be expected by creditors.

The Receiver said Mr Stern was born in Hungary. He left there in 1944 when the Nazis marched in, and until 1953 lived in Switzerland. He moved to America and became a naturalized American citizen in 1956.

Mr Stern came to London in 1960 after his marriage three years before. He then worked for his wife's stepfather in the



Mr Stern: Home in trust.

Freshwater Group of companies. He became joint managing director of the group but left in 1971 to set up his own property development group of nearly 200 associated companies which became known as the Wilstar Group.

The Receiver said Mr Stern gave personal guarantees totaling more than £100m to firms which lent him group money. At that time his personal assets, other than his interest in the Wilstar Group, did not exceed £200,000. Mr Stern had said the people from whom he was borrowing money knew he did not have the assets to back up his guarantees, but had sought them to insure his commitment to the companies being lent money.

Mr Stern suffered from liquidity problems, and although attempts were made both by his family to avoid bankruptcy, he was eventually declared bankrupt in May, 1978.

The court heard that Mr Stern's home in Golders Green, worth more than £300,000, and the paintings, antiques, and luxurious furnishings in it, are owned by a trust set up by his father. Mr Stern had been a self-employed consultant since the bankruptcy. He earned £12,679 in 1979, £14,728 in 1980, and he estimated he would earn

£12,500 this year. His family had also helped with cash gifts of £12,000 in both 1979 and 1980 and £17,000 this year.

Mr O'Reilly revealed that the mortgage on Mr Stern's home of £5,500 a year was paid by a family trust. His household and other expenses came to about £23,400 for himself and six dependants.

Since being made bankrupt Mr Stern had paid £13,150 for creditors. He had offered to pay a further £10,000 a year for three years in support of his discharge application. His family in the United States were also prepared to pay £25,000 so that he could get his discharge.

Three of the largest creditors, the Crown Agents, Keyser Bank of Chicago, opposed the discharge. Another creditor, Barclays Bank, was also said to be opposing the discharge and the bank had written to say they regarded Mr Stern's offer to creditors as "derisory".

The hearing was adjourned to July 22.

Suspended sentence for National Theatre actor

Norman Beaton, the black actor, was given a six-month suspended prison sentence at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for dishonestly obtaining an airline ticket.

Mr Beaton, aged 46, who is the star of the BBC television series *Empire Road* and who is also appearing at the National Theatre, was in addition fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £500 compensation to a travel firm.

On Tuesday, the jury cleared Mr Beaton, of Woodfield Road, King's Heath, Birmingham, of conspiracy to defraud in connection with a cancelled tour of Britain in 1978 by Ray Charles, the jazz singer.

But he was convicted of dishonestly obtaining a first-class air ticket from Los Angeles to London which was intended to

bring Mr Charles's agent to Britain to sign contracts.

Mr Giles Forrester, for the prosecution, said the travel firm had received two worthless cheques amounting to £1,054.

Before going to the dock, Mr Beaton said from the dock: "It was done with best will in the world and I sincerely regret I ever got involved with it."

His codefendant, Neville Queensgate, South Kensington, Marshall-Corbin, aged 35, of London, was also given a six-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, fined £1,000, and ordered to pay £500 compensation to the travel firm.

He had been acquitted of conspiracy to defraud but convicted of dishonestly obtaining the air ticket.

The judge was told that Mr Beaton had seven previous convictions, covering 23 offences.

IN BRIEF

Coffee morning at murder spot

In an attempt to find the killer of Mario Crofts, aged 14, whose body was discovered on Hampshire, the police will serve coffee at the murder scene this cast their minds back.

A woman police officer will reenact the girl's last known movements as she set out from her home in Basingbourne Close, Fleet, on her way to orchestra practice at Farnborough, five miles away.

More repairs to M5

The concrete section of the M5 around Taunton, Somerset, is being repaired again because water has undermined the foundations. The same trouble led to six months' reconstruction work costing £15m less than a year ago.

County bans cane

The cane was officially banned in Nottinghamshire children's homes yesterday by the new Labour-controlled county council. The council's Conservative councillors failed to get corporal punishment retained so that the views of head teachers could be assessed.

Forged banknotes

Shopkeepers, public house managers and club owners have been warned to look for forged £10 notes circulating in the Toxteth district of Liverpool. Five have been found in the past four days.

Body fingerprinted

Fingerprints yesterday identified the mutilated body found beside a railway line in Nottinghamshire, as Mr John Cummings, aged 22, a part-time soldier, of Delaval Road, Forest Hill, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He had been travelling by train to an Army camp.

Fire at hospital

Patients had to be moved from part of Rotherham District General Hospital after yesterday's fire swept through a corridor. It is thought the fire was caused by a discarded cigarette.

Nudists rejected

After several months of indecision, councillors in Great Yarmouth have rejected a request from the Central Council of British Nudists for a nudist beach at the Norfolk resort.

CID chief suspended

Det Chief Inspector John Drayton, head of the CID at Tower Hill, Northants, has been suspended on full pay pending an internal inquiry.



Mr Bunyan (left) and Mr Peak in their office: Claim based on Bill of Rights.

British Army illegal, radicals say

By Peter Hennessy

The British Army has been living and working in a condition of illegality for more than 25 years, according to a paper published yesterday by Mr Tony Bunyan and Mr Steve Peak, of State Research, the radical, "whistleblowing" London-based "think tank".

Their claim, based on the Bill of Rights, 1689, is denied by the Ministry of Defence lawyers, who have seen a copy of State Research's June-July bulletin and its background paper entitled *The British Army: 25 Years of Illegality*.

The Bill of Rights, which has never been repealed, states: "The raising or keeping a standing army within the kingdom in time of peace, unless it be with consent of Parliament is against law."

Between 1689 and 1881, Parliament authorized the existence of a standing army by passing an annual Mutiny Act. Between 1881 and 1924, its maintenance was sanctioned by an Army Act passed each year.

Mr Bunyan and Mr Peak assert that the Army Act, 1955, the Air Force Act, 1955, and the Naval Discipline Act, 1957, and successive Armed Forces Acts renewed automatically to cover discipline in the services, have failed to grant the explicit annual parliamentary authorization for the existence of a standing army required by the Bill of 1689.

An early motion was tabled at the Commons yesterday entitled "Need for annual parliamentary approval of standing army". It stands under the name of Miss Jo Richardson, Labour MP for Barking, and carries the signatures of five other Labour members and Mr Dafydd Ellis

Shutdown of gas industry threatened

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Brighton

Union leaders threatened yesterday to shut down the gas industry over a political storm about the proposed "privatization" of high street gas showrooms. Nearly 50,000 jobs are at risk, it was claimed.

Mr John Edmonds, national industrial officer of the General and Municipal Workers Union, warned the Government that it implemented a report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the gas industry, industrial action would follow.

"We have enormous power and on an issue like this we will use it," he said.

A Cabinet committee met in Whitehall yesterday to consider the report, which says that the Gas Corporation's dominant position in the retail market for cookers, fires and water heaters is on balance, against the public interest.

Ministers are studying its two recommendations, which are that British Gas should either be banned from selling domestic appliances or face drastic restrictions on sales.

Mr Edmonds told delegates to the GMWU policy conference: "The gas industry faces an enormous threat which could cost us one third of the jobs in the industry, and many more outside."

The corporation sold 1,500,000 appliances every year and the industry believed that private retailers would not be able to match that sales record.

If gas showrooms are banned from selling British Gas appliances which make gas appliances will have to close," he said.

"That is not just my view. It is what the unions and the managers in the factories tell me."

If a sales ban was imposed the corporation's sales, transport costs and fitting work force would be decimated. "We estimate that 30,000 jobs would be lost in British Gas, plus 15,000 in appliance and component factories."

NCCL hails rejection of marches Bill clause

By Frances Gibb

MPs have rejected a controversial clause in the County of Kent Bill which would make it a criminal offence for organizers of marches not to give the police 72 hours notice or as much notice as was reasonably practicable.

The committee of four MPs under the chairmanship of Mr Thomas McNally, Labour MP for Stockport, South, unanimously voted that the clause should be dropped from the Bill in view of the possibility of national legislation on notice requirements stemming from the Green Paper on Public Order.

Their decision was hailed as a victory by a broad alliance of 12 local groups who, led by the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL), have opposed the Bill. They ranged from the Kent County Liberal Group and the Canterbury branch Labour Party to the Kent Graphical Society and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (Maidstone).

Miss Harriet Harman, legal officer with the NCCL, said it was the first time a local authority which sought to introduce such a clause had fought it through to a Commons committee and lost.

The Bill was obliged to go to an "ad hoc committee" at which counsel for both sides gave evidence. It has already been passed by the Lords, and received its second reading in the Commons.

Mr Stephen Irwin, counsel for the NCCL, and others argued that the Kent police had failed to demonstrate the need for the notice requirement.

The clause would create a hotch-pot of local laws with different notice requirements in different counties.

Among evidence that influenced MPs in their decision was that of Mr Christopher Brown, a councillor, who said the new offence would discourage people from taking part in perfectly peaceful marches. Kent was not a trouble and strife torn part of the county.

The Green Paper on Public Order recommends a five-day national notice requirement.

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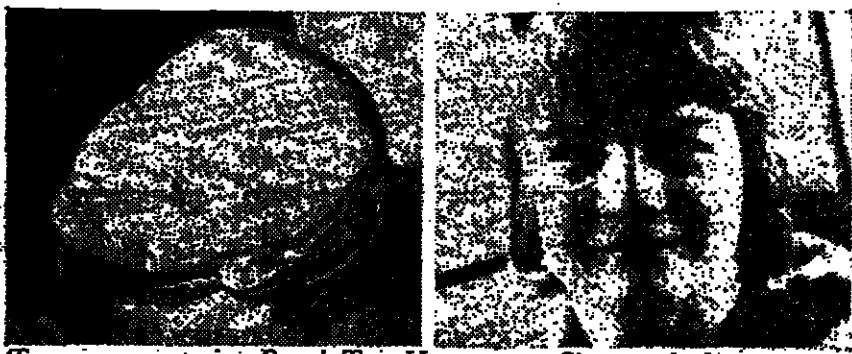
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Move to delay fourth TV channel said to be false logic

By Kenneth Gosting

Backbench Conservative MPs who have signed an early day motion calling for the introduction of the fourth television channel to be delayed were left in no doubt yesterday that the Independent Broadcasting Authority will keep to the present timetable.

In an interview marking his first six months as chairman of the IBA, Lord Thomson of Monifieth said: "Plans are now well advanced to get it on the air in the autumn of 1982. Everything is being done to speed up the process of spending some £40m on the engineering side of things."

"I take the view that those MPs who signed the motion the other day seeking a delay in the channel are really putting forward a proposition that is on its own merits false economy."

It is falsely based as an economic proposition in seeking

to halt what is now beyond the point of no return."

Lord Thomson said the argument was that the channel's introduction would lead to a fall in the amount of levy paid by the companies to the Independent Broadcasting Authority, that the launching would in effect be subsidised by the taxpayer.

"This is false logic," he said. "The commitments are all made, and the quicker we start getting a return on that money, the better for everyone concerned."

The Government had recognized during the preparatory period that there was bound to be a reduction in levy income, but the basis of all the planning, Lord Thomson said, was that there would be an increase by 1984.

Companies' revenue was holding up well in the recession and this year, allowing for inflation,

would be about the same as last, when net profits totalled £14m on revenue of £375m.

Lord Thomson said that after the settlement of the new franchises his first priority had been to help make a success of the new channel. He hoped it would be a genuine different in character from the other three channels, not simply an imitation of BBC 2.

It had the opportunity to do things in greater depth than was possible on the present independent channel and that would also enable Independent Television News to provide its coverage in more detail.

Lord Thomson said he would insist that Channel Four was not going to be an excuse for Channel One to stop doing serious and worthwhile things.

Channel Four should also be putting on high quality entertainment as well.

He is also keen to see the independent radio network built up in the next few years to make it fully viable economically.

Yesterday the IBA advertised for applications to operate the Londonderry station which will open in 18 months.

Lord Thomson has visited Northern Ireland and plans more trips there. Commenting on Granada's decision to abandon its *World in Action* programme about IRA propaganda because the IBA objected to a 20-second sequence of a hunger striker lying in state, he said: "At that point in the programme it seemed to us to be a critical taking."

"Instead of taking what the IRA had done and had already been reported, they crossed the line to engage themselves in making propaganda for the Irish National Liberation Army."

Women are falling behind men in pay race

By a Staff Reporter

Women work for appalling low rates of pay and their earnings relative to men's have stagnated or even deteriorated slightly, the Low Pay Unit says in a briefing paper published yesterday.

Of almost four million adults classified as low paid, 65 per cent were women, it says.

On an eight of adult working men and women, the average pay was £4.54 per week, but for women it was £4.00, a fall of 11 per cent on the basis of £7.5 for 40 hours, or £1.90 an hour.

The unit's briefing paper is published to coincide with the debate yesterday in the Lords on racial and sexual discrimination and today in the Commons on the effects of Government policies on the rights, status and opportunities of women.

The unit says that the implementation of the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts five years ago did have a "once and for all" impact on women's pay, but the initial impetus for change had evaporated. "Indeed, women's earnings have since declined."

There is an even greater difficulty of low pay among young workers, especially young girls.

The main obstacle to greater progress under the Equal Pay Act, it concludes, is the wording of the Act. It obliges employers to give equal pay for equal work. But often women are in jobs for which there is no male equivalent.

It calls for the Equal Pay Act to be amended to require employers to pay equal pay for work of equal value and for the Sex Discrimination Act to be amended to obligate employers to discriminate positively in favour of women when faced with two otherwise equal applicants.

Women and Low Pay (Low Pay Unit, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG).

Women at work, page 11

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French Cabinet to use wealth tax to pay for jobs

From Ian Murray, Paris, June 10

Jobs and better pensions for the poor funded by higher taxation of the rich were agreed by the French Cabinet today.

The whole package of social measures already agreed by the Government to raise 4,200m francs (about £680m) in new taxation laws to be introduced before the new National Assembly next month are to raise 6,810m francs.

The measures were worked out in the course of what M. Pierre Bergery, Secretary General of the Elysee, described afterwards as a new style of Cabinet meeting in which ministers actually discussed the projects rather than rubber-stamped them.

It was also a wide-ranging meeting. Apart from agreement to create 54,290 more jobs in the public sector next month and to sort out the details of the new tax package, the Cabinet dealt with a list of promises made during the election campaign.

The much hated road tax for motor cycles is to go by December. Young drivers are to have their statutory grant doubled by the end of next year. Veterans are to receive a 5 per cent pension increase and there will be new jobs and credit in the education service.

In addition, the details of the traditional amnesty law which follows the election of a new President were agreed. New categories of offenders than ever before are to be included. Poachers, short-term military discipline offenders and anyone else serving sentences of less than six months would be released. Minor driving offences would be ignored or pardoned. But drug dealers and people who have defrauded the social security system would be among those excluded from any amnesty.

The Cabinet also discussed free time. A new public service office for social leisure and popular education is to be created from the beginning of next month and a study on the way a free holiday system for the underprivileged could be introduced is to be urgently completed.

After all this good news came the bad.

The price of petrol is to be increased by 15 centimes a litre (roughly 15p a gallon). This, according to the Cabinet statement, was necessary because the previous Government had failed to respect its own rules for putting up the price of petroleum products.

The new taxation measures will mainly affect the 108,000 people—less than 1 per cent of all French taxpayers—who last year paid more than 100,000

francs on their declared income. This would, for example, include a married man with two children earning 8,261 francs (£750) a week. This new, and temporary, surtax is expected to raise 4,200m francs.

To this will be added a windfall profit tax on last year's revenue by banks and oil companies which is meant to raise a further 2,600m francs. These new taxes are due to be agreed by one of the first laws to be tabled for the National Assembly's session immediately after the legislative elections.

The Government action was manifest at the end of the meeting as the various ministers sped off from the Elysee to prepare detailed statements.

M. Jacques Delors, Minister for Finance and the Economy, was first away. M. Laurent Fabius, Minister for the Budget, had already emphasised that this year's budgetary deficit was bound to be 51,600m francs rather than the forecast 24,900m even before the Socialists came to power.

M. Maurice Faure, the Minister of Justice, was working out the amnesty law. It would mean that about 5,000 people could be freed, he estimated later, and 60 per cent of all crimes convicted by the Court of State Security would be released.

As far as Basque militants concerned a group decision would be taken. A group decision would be taken. A group decision would be taken.

Mme Catherine Lalumière, Junior Minister for the Public Sector, was working out how the 54,290 new jobs would be shared out. There would be 12,475 in education and 12,000 in the post office. There would be a total of 9,340 in social security jobs covering hospitals, old peoples' homes and centres for the handicapped. Cultural and social associations would recruit a further 2,250 and a further 5,000 posts would be created in local government.

Perhaps the busiest department was the Ministry of Free Time with a five-point programme covering adult education and the arts, holidays and the theatre, with three different studies and a committee to form. This ministry is seen as one of the most important by the new Government and tonight it organized its first event.

Appropriately enough the Cabinet meeting was held on the forty-fifth anniversary of the day when Leo Lagrange, the first Minister of Sport and Leisure in France, announced the law providing for a second week's paid holiday.

Mitterrand fires his first shots in election campaign

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, June 10

Unlike his predecessor, who in 1978 and 1981, called on French voters to make "the right choice", M. Francois Mitterrand is asking them to support a parliamentary means of carrying out the policy for which he was elected.

At Montelimar last night, in his first important speech since his election to the presidency, he insisted that there were only two possible policies for France. "The one is that whose failure Frenchmen have just condemned. They will judge it, I believe, on June 14 and 21 in the same way as they did on May 10. The other is that which I propose and which I have begun to implement."

He attacked the argument of the Gaullists and Giscardians that the voters will not want to put all their eggs in the same basket on Sunday, and urged a return to Parliament. A liberal majority to act as a break on the collectivization of French society.

In these times of crisis and failure, France must speak with one voice, he said.

"She must be able to make her message of freedom and hope, of strength and tranquility heard universally—for the sake of her own peace, and the peace of the world. I hope the country will give me the means to do so."

The choice of Montelimar in the Rhone valley was not accidental. This is a stronghold with a long Socialist tradition, deeply rooted in the cultivation of the vine.

M. Maurice Pic, its mayor, is an old companion of M. Mitterrand in the UDSR, that small key party of the fifties and sixties strategically placed at the left of centre, which boasted more ministers to its total membership than any other because it was an indispensable

element of all the kaleidoscopic coalitions of the Fourth Republic.

M. Henri Michel, one of the three Socialist deputies, is a personal friend of long standing, with whom the President has often stayed at Suz-la-Rousse.

M. Mitterrand, in an informal talk with reporters at Solvay, in Burgundy, had said that he would not refrain from intervening in the parliamentary campaign. "But I shall certainly not do so outside the legal limits"—an allusion to the habit of M. Giscard d'Estaing, and his two predecessors, of addressing a final appeal to the voters just before polling day and after the official closing of the campaign.

The President also implicitly warned both the left of his own party and his opponents on the right that he felt bound only by his own campaign promises, and not by Socialist programmes or "projects" which M. Jacques Chirac and the leaders of the outgoing majority are branding like a scarecrow before the eyes of the voters.

The "quiet man" now installed in the Elysee also took the opportunity to demonstrate his firmness and sense of authority towards the United States, "which must understand there is no true solidarity which is not based on a just economic cooperation. How can they expect it of their allies when their monetary policy placed upon them an excessive burden?"

Towards Russia, to which he warned that "the Poles must settle their own problems by themselves. I solemnly repeat: the principle of non-intervention in the affairs of a country is a fundamental principle. Any breach of this rule would have serious consequences."

Jobless on EEC minds

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, June 10

Economics and labour or social affairs ministers of the Ten were gathering in Luxembourg today, in a forlorn attempt to convince their various electorates that they are sincerely trying to do something about unemployment.

The idea for the conference—referred to here as the Jumbo Council because of the number of its participants—first emanated from the Dutch, largely for electoral reasons, and was somewhat casually endorsed at last November's EEC summit meeting.

Since then this commitment has come to be regretted. At least part of the reason why it is being held now is the desire of the British to get it out of the way before they take

over the EEC presidency from the Dutch on July 1.

It is certain that the outpouring of rhetoric and fine-sounding speeches will be in inverse proportion to the concrete results of the conference, which seems likely merely to advertise the inability or unwillingness of most governments to take the action necessary to create more jobs.

Not that anyone disputes the seriousness of the problem. According to the European Commission, there were six million unemployed in the EEC in 1978. This figure now stands at more than 8.5 million, is expected to reach 10 million by the end of the year and will probably rise to 12 million by 1985.

This grim prospect is the product both of recession and demographic trends



Mr. Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, in Hamburg with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor.

US team resumes talks on Namibia

From Eric Marsden, Cape Town, June 10

Mr. William Clark, the United States Deputy Secretary of State, arrived in Cape Town tonight at the head of a mission of three to discuss with South African leaders ways of bringing Namibia back to the road to independence.

He was accompanied by Dr. Chester Crocker, the newly confirmed Assistant Secretary of State, and Mr. Elliot Abrams, the Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations.

Mr. Clark, making his first important diplomatic mission overseas, was in guarded mood at the airport. He declined to

make an opening statement and parried questions with polite headshakes, saying: "That is premature" or "That will have to wait until after our talks".

He said he had come to continue "the very fine discussions" that Mr. R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, had had in Washington last month. He was unwilling to go into elements of a Namibia settlement such as the possible supervisory role of United Nations troops (to which both the Namibian internal parties and the

South African Government are opposed).

Mr. Clark insisted that he and his colleagues were "not wedded to any specific concepts, but are here to discuss concepts, point by point". Asked whether they planned visit to Windhoek on Friday was a recognition of the Namibian internal parties, he said: "We are there in recognition of their importance but that is a relative term and I do not give a value judgment on it". He was anxious to hear the parties' views.

Bonn gets car export pledge from Japanese

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, June 10

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Mr. Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, today upheld the principle of free trade in the face of growing protectionism in Europe towards Japanese imports.

At the same time Japan undertook not to increase its car exports to West Germany by more than 10 per cent a year, according to Herr Kurt Becker, a government spokesman.

In Tokyo Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, described the Japanese assurance as a partial success of his mission there this week to try to persuade the Japanese voluntarily to limit their exports to Europe and relax their import barriers, or face restrictions here.

He had told them that it would become difficult for West Germany—a fervent advocate of free trade—to resist the tide of protectionism within the EEC.

Reports from Tokyo said the 10 per cent ceiling referred to this year, and the minister was merely given to understand there would be no dramatic change next year.

Last year Japan sold 250,000 cars in West Germany, 100,000 more than the year before, increasing its share of the market from 5.6 to 10.4 per cent. Imports increased another 31 per cent in the first four months of this year, and are expected to drop sharply soon, to keep within the 10 per cent limit.

The Japanese concession was announced as Mr. Suzuki began talks with the Chancellor in Hamburg on the first day of his 12-day tour of Europe.

Mr. Suzuki has said that his principal aim is to improve Japan's political relations with European countries and that trade problems are a matter for lesser officials and industry.

But he is likely to find that the matters foremost in the minds of his hosts in six capitals and in the EEC headquarters in Brussels are Japanese exports and the large imbalance of trade in Japan's favour.

The question of Japanese car imports has assumed great importance here since it appeared that the agreement to restrain car imports to the United States might result in a flood of Japanese cars on to the unrestricted West German market.

The agreement is less restrictive for the Japanese than the one they concluded recently with the United States, but political pressures in the United States for import restraints were greater than has been the case in West Germany and American car manufacturers are in a worse position than the German producers (Frank Vogl, United States Economics Correspondent, writes).

Almost one million Americans are out of work because of the United States car industry crisis. Last year Chrysler, General Motors and Ford together lost about \$4,500m (£2,250m).

The West Germans have now taken advantage of the United States deal with Tokyo to secure an agreement of their own, and the Japanese may have been willing to settle with Bonn.

Leading article, page 17

Coca-Cola moves into wine market

From Michael Leapman, New York, June 10

American tipplers are already blessed with low-calorie beers, letting them get drunk but not fat. Now, more stylish weight-conscious sippers will from next week also be catered for, when the Coca-Cola Company introduces a diet wine.

Four years ago the multinational soft drinks company acquired the Taylor Wine Company of New York and quickly expanded into California. Since then, what was still a comparatively gentlemanly trade has turned into a world of cut-throat competition, with saturation television advertising and slick merchandising techniques.

The result has been to expand the market for wine and especially to encourage its consumption as a drink on its own, not just with meals.

Its less-fertile quality is achieved by picking grapes when they are not quite ripe and so have a lower sugar content.

Production of the wine in California was made possible only last year when the state repealed a law requiring that all wine should be at least 10 per cent alcohol.

Coca-Cola also won a legal battle to use the word "light" on the label in conjunction with calorie information.

After all this effort to get a new product on the market, how does it taste? Test marketing does not begin until next week, and even then the stuff will not be sold in New York city.

Some motoring organisations have eyes that tend to wander. Ours have always been firmly fixed on the road. From the very beginning, the RAC has been the friend, the spokesman, the champion of the motorist. Today the motorist needs a champion more than ever.

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The RAC continually lobbies governments, MP's, local authorities and other organisations.

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The RAC working together with the Auto Cycle Union, organises a national motor cycle training scheme.

The RAC promotes caravan road safety codes. Campaigns for improved compensation for road accident victims. Fights for the simplification of court procedures for motoring offences.

And so on, ad infinitum. At the same time, the RAC helps motorists in more visible ways. Like putting up temporary signposts. And publishing lighting-up times. And issuing traffic reports.

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All these efforts help all of Britain's motorists. Members of the RAC are helped in many other ways.

Already two million motorists are protected by the RAC Rescue and Recovery Services.

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And free legal advice in all motoring matters.

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On everything that concerns the motorist. The RAC is not in business to profit from motorists' misfortunes.

But rather ploughs back any surplus to improve services to the motorist.

And so, everyone at the RAC keeps his eyes on the road. And that includes everyone from Patrolman Philip Ralph to Chief Executive Eric Charles.

"WE BELIEVE A MOTORING ORGANISATION SHOULD KEEP ITS EYES ON THE ROAD."



Eric Charles, RAC, Chief Executive, RAC Motoring Services. Photographed with Patrolman Philip Ralph.

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Dear comrades . . . Moscow warns Polish party

This is the text of the letter from the Soviet Central Committee to the Polish Central Committee which was sent last Friday and was debated by the Polish Central Committee on Tuesday. The translation in parts is a little free.

Dear Comrades,

The Central Committee of the Soviet Union addresses itself to you in this letter feeling profound anxiety for the fate of socialism in Poland and for the freedom and independence of the country.

Our démarche is dictated by the interest which we have as party members in the work of the Polish United Workers' Party and for the sister nation of socialist Poland as a member of the Warsaw Pact and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon).

Polish and Soviet communists have fought shoulder to shoulder in the battle against fascism and were together throughout all the years after the war. Our party and the people of the Soviet Union have helped their Polish comrades in the building of a new life. Therefore we cannot fail to be worried about the threat which now puts the revolutionary gains of the Polish nation in mortal danger.

We say openly that certain tendencies in the development of the People's Republic of Poland, particularly in the field of ideology and in the economic policies of the previous leadership, have been arousing our anxiety for many years. In full accordance with the spirit of relations which exist between the Polish and Soviet parties we spoke of this to Polish leaders during meetings at the highest level and during other encounters.

Unfortunately these friendly warnings, just like critical declarations from inside the Polish party, were not taken into consideration and were even ignored. As a consequence a profound crisis broke in the country, deriving from the violation of principles which should regulate the construction of socialism, were intended to regain popular confidence, above all that of the working class in the party, and reinforce socialist democracy.

These efforts found our full understanding. From the very first days of the crisis we thought it important that the party should decisively oppose all attempts to turn the crisis into a crisis of socialism to take advantage of difficulties to promote their long term aims. But this was not done.

Continuing concessions to anti-socialist forces and to their demands led the party to withdraw in the face of pressure from counter-revolution which relies on the support of foreign centres of imperialism and subversion.

At present the situation is not dangerous but it is critical. It is not possible to assess the situation any differently. Enemies of socialist Poland are not hiding their intention. They are conducting a struggle



for power and are already winning. They are taking control of one position after another.

Counter-revolution is using the extremist wing of Solidarity as a spearhead of attack, making use of workers who joined this professional union, in order to carry out this criminal plot against people's power and authority.

A wave of anti-communism and anti-Sovietism is developing. Imperialist forces are making more and more audacious attempts to interfere in Poland's internal affairs.

Greedy hands of capitalism

The serious danger to socialist Poland also puts the very existence of the Polish state in danger. If the worst were to happen and the enemies of socialism were to assume power, if Poland were no more to benefit from the defence of socialism, the greedy hands of imperialism would immediately stretch out. Who would then be able to guarantee the independence, sovereignty and frontiers of the Polish state? Nobody.

You attended the meeting of the Eastern parties which took place in Moscow on December 1, 1980. On March 4, 1981, there were talks between the Soviet leadership and a delegation from the Polish party attending the twenty-sixth congress. On April 23 this year, a Soviet delegation met the entire Polish leadership.

During these meetings and in other contacts we underlined our anxiety about the activity of counter-revolutionary forces in Poland. We have spoken of the need to surmount the con-

fusion within the ranks of the Polish party, of the need for a decisive defence of people's power against enemy attacks.

In particular, attention was drawn to the fact that the enemy had gained domination over the mass media which are being used to destroy socialism and disintegrate the party. We drew attention to the fact that the battle for the party cannot be won as long as press, radio and television work not for the party but for the enemy.

We also put forward forcefully the need to reinforce in Poland the forces of public order and the Army and to strengthen their defensive capability against the ambitions of counter-revolutionary forces.

To tolerate attempts to slander and disintegrate the security organs the militia and consequently the Army too means disarming the socialist state and abandoning it to the mercy of class enemies.

We wish to underline that in all these questions Comrades Kania and Jaruzelski and other Polish comrades expressed agreement with our point of view, but in fact, everything remained unchanged and there was no correction whatever to the policy of concession and compromise. One position after another is being surrendered.

In spite of documents from the last plenum (in May) which stated that there was a threat of counter-revolution, not a single measure has up to now been taken to confront it and to expose its organizers.

Recently the situation inside the party has also become the subject of our particular preoccupation. Only a month is left before the Polish party

congress, yet forces hostile to socialism are increasingly setting the tone of the election campaign.

Often candidates who openly express opportunistic points of view have entered the leadership of local party organizations and are carrying on a number of delegates to conferences and to the congress itself. This cannot but provoke anxiety.

Activists with irreproachable reputations and morality are being pushed out by the multiple manipulations of enemies of the party, revisionists and opportunists.

The fact that among the delegates to the approaching congress there is an extremely small number of communists from working class circles is profoundly worrying.

Preparations for the congress are complicated by the so-called movement of horizontal structures which is an instrument for dismantling the party and which opportunists are using to promote people indispensable to them in turning the proceedings along the road they want.

Enormous aid from Russia

It cannot be excluded that during the congress itself an attempt could be made to strike a decisive blow against Marxist-Leninist forces in the party and in fact to liquidate it.

We want to say that particularly in the past few months the forces of counter-revolution are actively disseminating anti-Sovietism of all kinds, designed to obscure the achievements of our two parties and to resurrect once again nationalism and anti-

Soviet sentiments in different strata of Polish society.

These slanderous and liars do not stop at anything. They maintain that the Soviet Union is plundering Poland, and this is said without bearing in mind the fact that the Soviet Union was and is providing enormous supplementary material aid to Poland in this difficult period.

It is said about a country which supplies principal branches of Polish industry with oil, gas, cotton and minerals at prices which are often one and a half to two times lower than world prices.

Respected comrades, in writing to you we not only have at heart our profound anxiety for the situation in sister Poland and for the conditions and prospects for Soviet-Polish cooperation but also the fact that other fraternal parties are anxious that anti-socialist and enemy forces are menacing the interests of our entire community, its cohesion and integrity and the security of its frontiers.

Yes, our common security is imperilled. Reactionary supporters and stimulates counter-revolution in Poland. It does not hide its hopes that in this way it can swing the balance of forces in Europe in its favour. Imperialism is actively using the crisis to slander the socialist system, the principles and practice of socialism. It uses the crisis for new attacks against the international communist movement.

Historic responsibility therefore rests on the Polish party not only for the destiny of its own country, for its independence and progress, but also for the interests of the socialist community.

We believe that a possibility

of avoiding a national catastrophe still exists. Inside the Polish party there are many honest and firm communists ready to fight for the ideals of Marxism-Leninism and for an independent Poland. There are also numerous persons in the working class who are devoted to the cause of socialism and have not been lured by the lies and machinations of enemies and who will follow the party and reflect its views.

It is now necessary to mobilize all healthy forces of society to confront the class enemy and fight the counter-revolution. This calls first of all for revolutionary will in the party and among its militants and leadership. Yes, its leadership!

Time is not waiting. The party must find in itself forces to reverse the course of events and to put things in order with good will before the congress.

Entire Soviet people with you

We would like to believe that the Central Committee of the Polish sister party will rise to its historic responsibilities. We wish to assure you, comrades, that in these difficult days, as always in the past, the Central Committee of the Soviet party and all Soviet comrades and the entire Soviet people are with you in your fight.

Our point of view was expressed with precision in the declaration of Comrade Brezhnev to the twenty-sixth congress: "We will not abandon fraternal socialist Poland in its hour of need. We will stand by it."

Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, June 5, 1981.

Arrigo Levi: A Personal View

West's first task is its economy

Does history run in grooves? The feeling that we have seen it all before has never been stronger than it is today, with the Soviet Union leaning every day more openly towards another invasion—it would be the third one—of a "brotherly" country, in order to prevent it—the holding of a communist congress.

Right now, having pointed out from the end of April that the period of real danger had come for the Polish rebellion, I would rather be tempted to point out that there are many good reasons why the Russians should not invade: more than 30 million good resisters, as many as there are Poles in Poland, plus one in the Vatican. Does Mr. Leonid Brezhnev want to risk, in his old age, a bloodbath in the heart of Europe? Does he really believe that by so doing he would strengthen Soviet power? Such doubts may still stop him.

Whatever happens in the next few weeks, events in Poland prove once again that the democratic West must prepare itself for a very long trial of strength with the Soviet Empire. General Sir John Hackett may be right in saying, as I heard him say at a recent conference, that "after all, the disintegration of the Soviet Empire from within is only a matter of time." I happen to agree with this view. But nobody knows whether we shall have to calculate time in years or generations.

Iceberg not thawing

Even accepting that Soviet power became a global threat only after the Second World War, and that it is now aimed at permitting us to outlast the last empire of history, has already gone on for one full generation. It could last for another.

It is a long time since anyone in the West spoke of doing something serious to roll back Soviet power. During the last decade we acted on the belief that the warm breeze of détente would hasten the thawing and breaking up of the Soviet iceberg faster than any icy winds from the Cold War.

In fact, either in the Cold War or in détente, the crisis-cycle of the Soviet Empire has remained the same: every 12 years or so one satellite country runs for freedom and is brutally brought back into the communist fold by the Red Army, or as in the case of Poland so far, by the threat to use it. This proves that the roots of the disease are deep inside the Soviet system. What we do is almost irrelevant.

Nor can we intervene in a crisis once it started, because we cannot risk an atomic war. We must wait for the cycle to run its full course, for the wheel to return, perhaps 12 years from now, to its present position. On one of these cycles, the disintegration of the Soviet Empire may finally take place, and when it happens the world shall tremble. In fact that the shock waves of such an event may not be contained within the frontiers of the empire itself: unleashing of course Vico's Law of Cycles is proved wrong and history takes another path.

In the meantime, we must prepare ourselves for a cruel, prolonged test of our resistance and willpower. What can we do to make sure that we can outlast the last empire?

Strong political instincts

The prevailing view of the West today is that we must, first of all, strengthen our defence efforts, in the NATO area and outside it. This is a certain vital and urgent. But I found very convincing an alternative view, which I heard forcefully argued by Mr. David Watt at another recent meeting, according to which "the most important thing for the alliance is to get our economic structure right, to get more growth."

Mr Watt's main point was that the defence effort itself cannot be sustained unless the American and European economies become stronger. One could add that more growth is equally indispensable in order to bring "employment levels and in order to strengthen our societies politically, so that they remain the superior civilization during the prolonged trial of strength."

President Reagan, with his strong political instincts, knows that his plans for the economic renaissance of America are to him as important as his campaign for America's rearmament. But his present management of economic affairs, while offering hope at home, is helping to plunge the rest of the free world into very serious trouble.

This is very wrong. The contradictions between the economic policies of the main Western powers must be solved before the July summit of the Seven, and before we deal this time mostly with economic affairs. Right now, "getting our economy right" may be the most important political task of the alliance, in answer to the unending turbulence of the world outside.

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Reagan unlikely to stop arms for Israel

From David Cross, Washington, June 10

President Reagan met his defence and foreign policy advisers at the White House again today to discuss possible retaliatory action against Israel for using American-built aircraft in its raid on the Iraqi nuclear power plant.

The Administration has promised to decide within the next day or two whether to suspend military sales to Israel. Spokesmen for the State Department and White House, who have condemned last Sunday's raid, have said on several occasions that the Israelis may well have violated American restrictions on the use of military equipment.

However, although it is fairly clear that Israel broke American law by using F15 and F16 aircraft offensively rather than for defensive purposes, Administration officials have indicated that any punitive action will be symbolic at most. Washington could, for example, decide to delay temporarily the delivery to the Israelis of four new F16 fighter bombers due to be handed over on Friday.

Mr Reagan and his advisers were also considering their attitude to the forthcoming debate in the United Nations Security Council on last Sunday's raid. They will have to take into account how far they should go in joining other Security Council members who are bound to condemn the Israeli attack.

After a late night meeting of the President and his advisers at the White House yesterday, a spokesman for Mr Reagan said no decision had yet been taken on how the Administration would react to the raid. "Any decisions will be made in the best interests of the United States," he said, adding that he did not expect today's gathering to come to any final conclusions.

On Capitol Hill, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives have made it clear that they, too, do not expect the close relationship between Washington and Tel Aviv to be impaired in spite of the anger in Moscow and the whole of the Arab world.

In a television interview today



No comment from Brigadier General Abdul Jawad Amin, Iraq's director of technology, cornered at the Paris Air Show

Air strike puts bite into election campaigning

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem, June 10

After a brief delay for mutual admiration of Israel's military prowess, last Sunday's long-range air strike against Iraq's nuclear reactor has now emerged as a bitterly contested campaign issue between the ruling right-wing Government and the opposition Labour Party.

With less than three weeks to go until polling day, Mr Shimon Peres, the Opposition leader, accused Mr Menachem Begin, Prime Minister, of deliberately launching the attack as a vote-catching measure.

He claimed that a military operation was not necessary at this stage, adding that the government should have allowed President Mitterrand to fulfil his wish to visit the campaign, pledge not to supply Iraq with enriched uranium.

Mr Abba Eban, another prominent Labour Party figure and former Foreign Minister, accused Mr Begin of irresponsibility for inviting President Sadat of Egypt to a summit meeting in the Sinai on the eve of the raid.

This has rendered the Egyptians susceptible to accusations of collusion, he said, and had accounted for their nervous reaction.

The delay in public Labour Party criticism of the raid is understood to have arisen from fears inside the party that such a move would appear unpatriotic. The chance in tactics comes alongside indications that the spectacular raid has further

Every Israeli bomb scored direct hit on Iraqi reactor

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, June 10

Some 72 hours after the event a clearer picture is beginning to emerge about the probable tactics used by the Israeli Air Force to mount last Sunday's long-distance raid which destroyed Iraq's main nuclear reactor at a site 15 miles outside Baghdad.

Because of the strict military censorship enforced by Israel on operational details, much of the information about the way in which the attack was mounted has originated from intelligence and other sources in America.

The Washington sources claim that about 15 American-built F15 and F16 jets were involved in the raid, which was the longest-range air operation ever carried out by Israeli fighter aircraft.

The jets were scrambled from Etzion, the air base situated in that part of the Sinai due to be handed back to Egypt next April. In order to fulfil the mission, the jets were forced to detect and possible missile attack, the jets are believed to have flown low over the barren empty quarter of Saudi Arabia for much of their journey.

The American sources believe that refuelling took place soon after take-off, with the modern F15s being used to bomb the Iraqi installation while the heavier, more powerful F16s flew air cover to guard against Iraqi interceptors.

In order to deflect suspicion from the Saudi Arabians, the Israeli pilots are understood to have identified themselves as members of the Jordanian Air Force and spoken in Arabic over their intercoms. It is not known whether they used special Jordanian air codes.

Outlining the difficulties posed by the operation, Major-General David Ivri, the chief of

the Air Force, said: "We carried out very many exercises and training procedures over the course of many months. . . . We had to provide answers to a number of basic problems including range, or the radius of the action, fuel, problems of communication with the target or intelligence control and monitoring in far-off areas."

Much of the initial work in identifying the layout of the reactor site, the work habits of the hundred or so foreign experts and the likelihood of Iraqi retaliation was done by agents of the Mossad, Israel's effective and strictly secret equivalent of Britain's MI6.

It is also believed to have been information from Mossad sources which convinced Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and the country's leading military planners that the Osirak reactor was within a maximum of three months from becoming operational.

The actual bombing was carried out with remarkable accuracy, using ordinary 2,000lb bombs and repaying hours of practice on scale models of the reactor. The Israelis have made it clear that their intention was to destroy the main 70 megawatt reactor, and not the much smaller experimental reactor also located on the site.

A 60-minute colour video tape film of the raid has been studied by senior Israeli politicians, and discussions are still under way to determine whether any segment of it can be released for public viewing.

The supreme confidence expressed by Israel from the outset about the success of the mission was partly based on a blow-up of one of the frames which clearly showed the core

of the Iraqi reactor crumbling and crashing into the cooling pool.

Mr Harry Cato, a Pentagon spokesman, said that American satellite reports had shown extensive damage to the Iraqi installation, with every bomb scoring a direct hit.

Another American source explained: "There was not one crater around the place. Every bomb went where it was supposed to."

It is now known that the Israeli fighters encountered only sporadic anti-aircraft fire during the attack. Once it was completed, they took roughly the same route back over the desert wastes of Saudi Arabia, covering a distance of some 1,120 miles all of it over hostile territory.

One potential threat to the tight secrecy surrounding the operation was the presence of an Israeli aerial surveillance aircraft flying regular missions from Saudi Arabia. But it seems that this was avoided because the aircraft patrol only along the eastern part of Saudi territory, some 1,000 miles from the route taken by the Israeli raiders.

The success of Sunday's mission has inevitably led to speculation that some type of similarly spectacular action is being planned against the new Syrian missile sites in Lebanon. Asked yesterday to compare the problems that would be encountered in the two operations, General Ivri replied that to do so would be as difficult as "comparing a cucumber and a tomato."

The Israeli Air Force commander added: "The main thing is that this attack we have already completed successfully, whereas the other one is still ahead of us."

Quarrels threaten Arab unity

From Robert Fisk

Beirut, June 10

Less than 24 hours before the Arab League is to debate a concerted response to the Israeli attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor, Arab states were today showing signs of dissension.

Libya sneered at Saudi Arabia's inability to prevent the Israeli jets flying over its territory, while Syria announced that the Israeli aircraft would have been shot down by missiles if they had flown over Syria.

This display of petulance augurs badly for any hopes that the Arabs can for once present the Libyans in the face of an Israeli attack.

Demands for an economic boycott of the United States are likely to become bogged down in the quarrelling of Arab states who suspect that their neighbours are successful traitors or client kingdoms of the United States.

The Libyan radio and state-controlled newspapers have been criticizing Saudi Arabia for failing to realize that the Israelis were flying over their country. The Libyans wanted to know why the Airborne Warning and Command Systems (AWACS) aircraft delivered by the United States were unable to detect the Israeli intruder aircraft.

For several months now Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, has been claiming that the mere existence of the AWACS aircraft is a blasphemy against the Islamic shrines of Saudi Arabia.

In Damascus, the Government newspaper *Al Baath* said an Israeli attack could not have been successfully undertaken against Syria. "Such an attack would not be a picnic," an editorial said, suggesting that "that was what the Israelis experienced over Iraq."

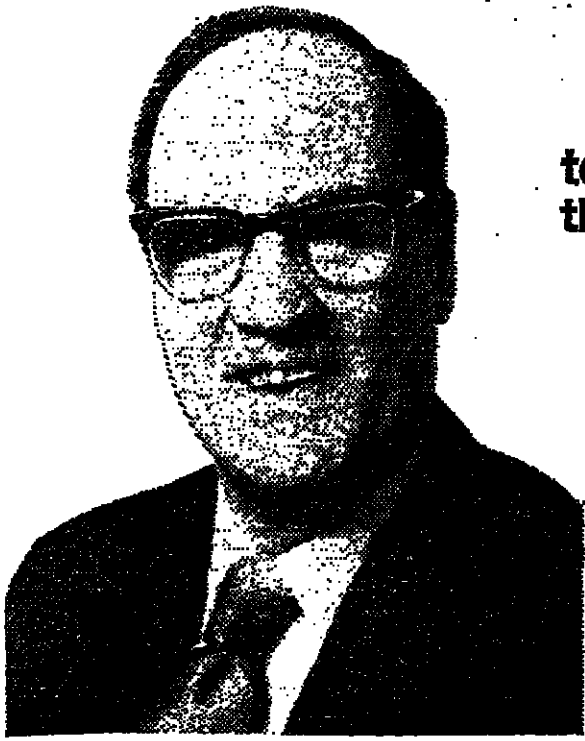
If enemy planes had flown Syria in the way they did Baghdad, they would have been struck down by missiles."

Iraq today recounted the extent of international condemnation against Israel. The Iraqi newspaper also gave considerable prominence to the statement by Mr. Sivard

of the International Atomic Energy Agency, quoting him as saying that it had inspected the Iraqi reactor and had found that Iraq had "made no nuclear activity which contradicts the (nuclear non-proliferation) treaty".

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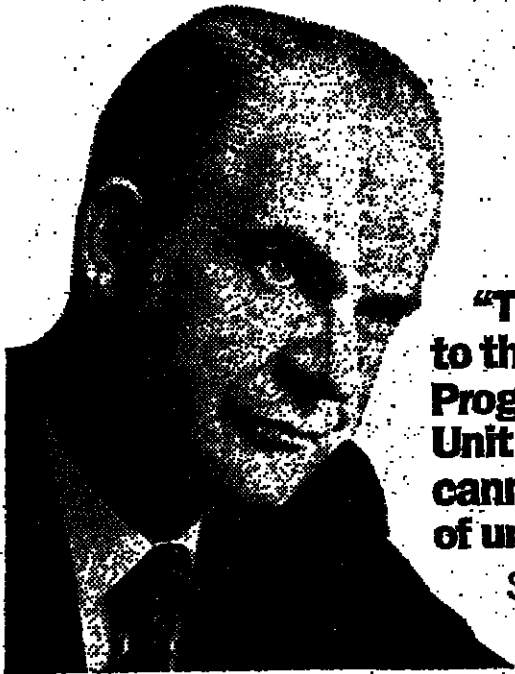


"ICI will keep on supporting the Youth Opportunities Programme - we have seen the benefits it brings to young people."

SIR MAURICE HODGSON
CHAIRMAN, ICI

"We all need to make a commitment to training if we're going to compete in the modern world"

TERRY DUFFY
PRESIDENT, ALENX



"The C.B.I. is totally committed to the Youth Opportunities Programme. It has set up a special Unit to support it. Industry cannot afford to ignore the plight of unemployed young people."

SIR TERENCE BECKETT
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, C.B.I.

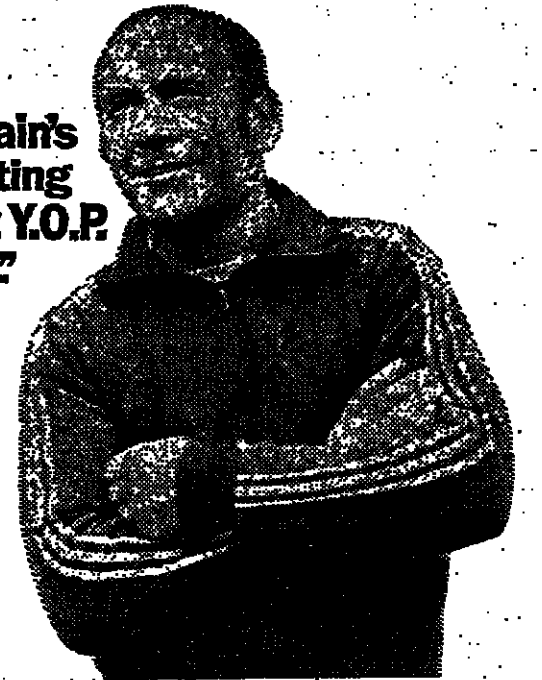
"Through working for a time at Marks & Spencer on the Youth Opportunities Programme, young people gain confidence and motivation which we hope will be helpful to them in the future."

LORD SIEFF
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"Let's give Britain's teenagers a sporting chance. I support Y.O.P. Now it's your turn?"

RON SAUNDERS
MANAGER, ASTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB



If we don't plant acorns, we won't get oaks.



"Y.O.P. would have been a good and much-needed programme at any time: in today's conditions it is essential."

Every good employer should be backing it."

LORD CARR
CHAIRMAN, PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION



"The future of this country will be in the hands of those very teenagers Y.O.P. is helping today. The T.U.C.'s behind it all the way?"

LEN MURRAY
GENERAL SECRETARY, T.U.C.



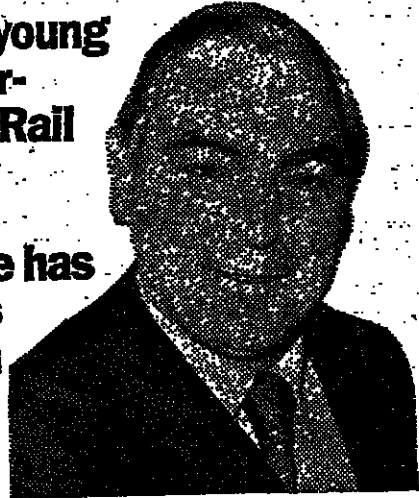
"It is vital that every possible opportunity is created to provide training and experience for our young people - I see Y.O.P. as a great encouragement to achieving this objective."

SIR HECTOR LAING
CHAIRMAN, UNITED BISCUITS

"The number of young people given opportunities on British Rail continues to grow rapidly."

The Programme has been an enormous success - for them and for us."

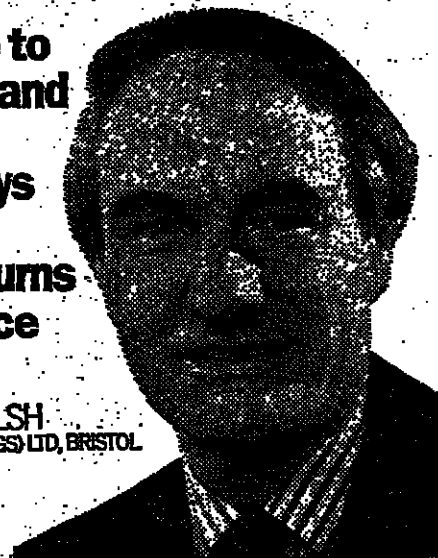
SIR PETER PARKER
CHAIRMAN, BRITISH RAILWAYS BOARD



"Clearly, you have to provide experience and training."

But the MSC pays the youngsters and there are no tax returns or National Insurance contributions?"

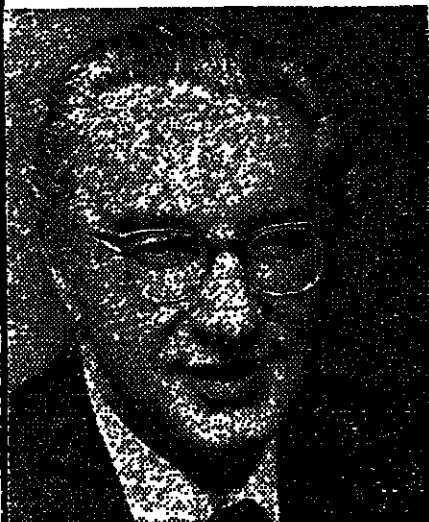
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"It's nothing less than a new deal for the young unemployed."

I hope every employer who reads this will help to make it work"

JOE GORMLEY
PRESIDENT, A.U.M.

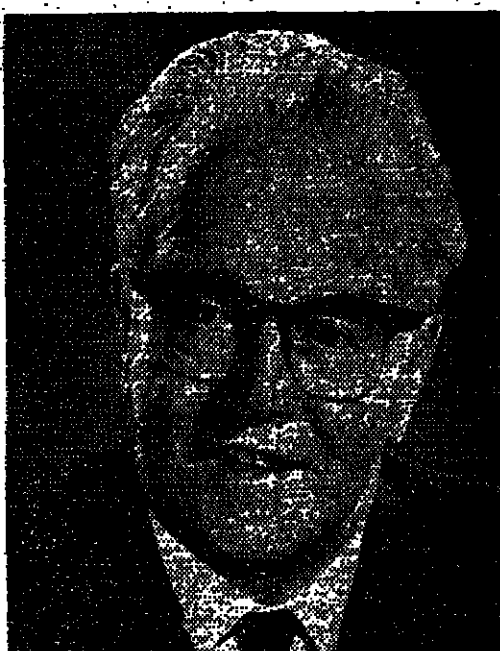


"Over 700,000 teenagers have been through the Programme, and many of them have landed jobs at the end of it. Including 300 we took on last year?"

LORD WEINSTOCK
MANAGING DIRECTOR, G.E.C.

"The Programme is designed for each individual employer so that it doesn't come between you and your business routine."

SIR JOHN MOORES
CHAIRMAN, LITTLEWOODS ORGANISATION

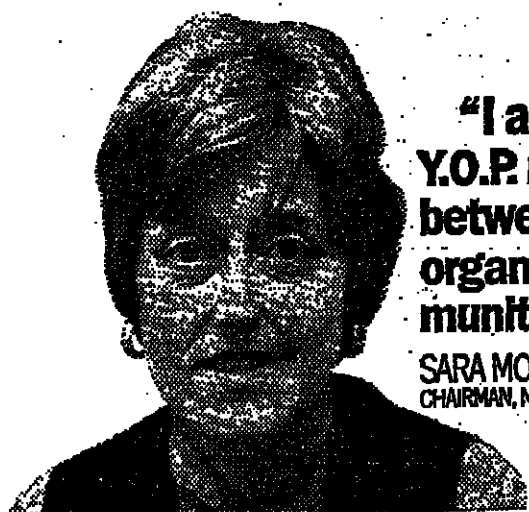


"We find that many of the youngsters we help through Y.O.P. are the sons and daughters of our own employees here at Ford?"

SAM TOY
CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, FORD MOTOR CO.

"I am pleased by the way much of Y.O.P. reflects close co-operation between young people and voluntary organisations to improve the community and all our future prospects?"

SARA MORRISON
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS



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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMME MSC

If we don't plant acorns, we won't get oaks.

Crisis deepens as Forlani fails to form government

By Peter Nichols, Rome, June 10

A former newspaper editor has been asked to try and form a government in Italy because of the failure of Signor Arnaldo Forlani to do so.

If Senator Giovanni Spadolini, the Republican Party leader, succeeds, he will be the first politician in three and a half decades to break the Christian Democratic monopoly on the Premiership.

Senator Spadolini, an historian who edited the Milan newspaper Corriere della Sera goes to the palace tomorrow.

His summons by President Pertini came at the end of a day in which the Italian crisis grew progressively more serious.

Not only was Signor Forlani's own position weakened to the point that he could do nothing but withdraw from the scene, there was a worsening in developments surrounding the Masonic crisis which brought down the Forlani Government.

In Turin yesterday, Signor Walter Mandelli, deputy chairman of the Confederation of Industry, said: "No country in the state Italy is in has ever

solved its problems without a dictatorship. I still want to believe that we shall manage to avoid it."

The Masonic scandal hardened, today after publication of an interview given to the Rome newspaper La Repubblica by Signor Giuliano Turone, and Signor Gherardo Colombo, the two Milan investigating magistrates who discovered the P2 lists.

These were found in the Arizona villa of Signor Licio Gelli, organiser of the P2 group, who is now in hiding to avoid arrest on charges of espionage.

He was a Freemason and his P2 organisation still had ties with official Freemasonry even though it was not a lodge in the usual sense of the term.

Signor Gelli has since been suspended by the Masonic leadership. The lists show that he had gathered around him 253 people including politicians and heads of the armed forces and secret services.

The defence of some of the men allegedly associated with him is that the lists were con-

cocted by Signor Gelli or others with the specific aim of allowing them to fall into the hands of the investigators.

This defence has largely been swept away by what the two investigating magistrates say today.

They make clear that they carried out the search of Signor Gelli's villa without informing the local police chief or any other authorities. By acting in this way they were sure that Signor Gelli's informers in high places would have been unable to tell him in advance that his home was about to be searched.

They also say that the documents found in the villa certainly do not amount to the whole Gelli archive which they believe is kept abroad in Switzerland or Latin America.

The documents so far seized referred simply to current business—and it might be said that the lists given relatively small importance by the investigating judges have so far brought down one Government and are effectively preventing the formation of a new one.

Portraits of Franco still adorn Spanish ships

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, June 10

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Spanish Prime Minister, has been asked to remove portraits of King Juan Carlos from the ships of the Spanish Navy.

Señor Calvo Sotelo told reporters that the portraits of King Juan Carlos must be shown in a prominent place on their ships and not those of General Franco.

He was commenting on Barcelona last night on the large portrait of the late dictator on board the Spanish Navy's aircraft carrier Dedalo, the flagship of the fleet assembled off the Catalan capital during armed forces' week last month.

"In my view in all official buildings and ships of the Navy the King's portrait must occupy a principal place and appropriate measures will be taken where this is not so," Señor Calvo Sotelo told reporters who raised the matter.

Already last autumn the Suárez Government issued instructions on similar lines after the paramilitary Civil Guard had ostentatiously continued to give pride of place to Franco's portrait. But these instructions were evidently ignored by some senior naval officers.

During armed forces' week in Barcelona there was also an incident involving the Navy, un-

reported by the Spanish national press. The new head of the state radio was accused of being a Socialist by a rear-admiral, the son of a former navy minister under Franco, who went on to boast of his sympathies for the former regime.

The Socialist Party has put down questions in Parliament for the Minister of the Interior about a military-style parade in which several hundred uniformed members of the youth wing of Fuerza Nueva, the neo-Falangist party, took part on Sunday in Valladolid, during its national congress.

As the uniformed youths marched past they were reviewed by Señor Blas Pinar, the extreme right-wing member of the Spanish Parliament. The march music played included the "Hymn of the Infantes" reserved for the daughters of the King and for army generals.

The civil governor in the Castilian town, which has been selected by extreme right-wing forces for promoting their activities, has started proceedings to fine Fuerza Nueva. As the demonstrators dispersed, they provoked incidents with the local police.

Kabul gun battle in palace

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, June 10

Feuding between rival factions in Afghanistan's ruling party has erupted into a gun battle in the People's Palace, the presidential headquarters in Kabul, according to reports reaching Delhi today.

A diplomatic source said that nine days ago there was shooting between members of the Khalq faction and President Babrak Karmal's Parcham faction. One of the presidential bodyguards was killed, according to one report.

It is not known whether Mr Karmal was in the palace at the time. There are rumours in Kabul that he has visited Moscow recently and has been told to redouble his efforts to bring unity to the party.

Unity, however, will be difficult to achieve. The differences between the factions are deep and bitter and there have been numerous gun battles and murders, mostly in Kabul.

The diplomatic source said that Mr Karmal's parents were flown to the Soviet Union recently. There were also reports that the family of his brother, Baryalai, and of Mr Muhammad Rafi, the Defence Minister, had left for the Soviet Union. There is speculation here that Mr Karmal and others in the hierarchy fear that their families are in danger as the feuding intensifies.



Cindy Spicer, aged nine, of St Paul, Minnesota, the youngest heart transplant recipient in the world, skips happily out of the University of Minnesota Hospital, followed by her father. She received her new heart five weeks ago. Doctors described her condition as superb.

Foot takes initiative on disarmament

From Paul Routledge, Brighton

Mr Michael Foot, the Opposition leader, has taken the initiative in moving towards East-West disarmament talks by writing directly to President Brezhnev.

His intervention, designed to accelerate progress towards a full-scale summit on arms control and reduction, was disclosed in a speech in Brighton yesterday to the policy conference of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

Labour's leader also reaffirmed his commitment to Britain going alone in giving up nuclear weapons if the two super powers cannot reach agreement on scaling down the arms race.

"We should mobilise all our strength on this great issue," Mr Foot insisted. "And believe me the way in which we can proceed forward will be a combination of trying to secure multilateral, international negotiations but in certain circumstances we should be prepared to take unilateral action to show we are serious."

"What we are fighting against is the wicked, evil farism of those who say that the nuclear arms race must be allowed to go on. The British Government, if it had any fitness to govern in this matter, would have replied long since to Mr Brezhnev."

"But because they have not, we in the Labour Party have replied and they will be receiving our letter in the next few days."

Mr Foot afterwards declined to be drawn on the contents of his letter beyond saying that it covered the areas raised by Mr Brezhnev in his approach to Western leaders for talks on cutbacks in military spending.

However, he added: "We want to get negotiations moving. When the Government talks

about the end of the year we don't think that is fast enough. The Government doesn't show enough urgency."

The Labour leader further revealed that Mr Brezhnev had written to him and to the leaders of other West European socialist parties seeking their support in getting disarmament negotiations off the ground, and that these leaders from Belgium, Norway, Denmark and Holland met for joint discussions three weeks ago.

Mr Foot's approach to the Russians, was the outcome of these discussions. "The only defence policy for Britain and the world is a disarmament policy, starting with nuclear disarmament and I believe you have to start right away."

Mr Foot said the United States has begun talks with the Soviet Union on limiting strategic arms and medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe, and describes talk in Washington of such a development as "only words". (Michael Binyon writes.)

"I can say quite definitely that in all the time since the present American Administration came to power, to this day, no real steps have been taken on either of the questions by the United States," the Soviet leader said at a Kremlin banquet last night.

He said the United States used all sorts of pretexts to delay the opening of discussions. But the Soviet Union was ready for them at any time.

In his speech, in honour of President Chadi Benjedid of Algeria, who is on a visit, Mr Brezhnev also proposed measures to turn the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and stability.

Reagan stand on tax cuts unsettles Democrats

From Patrick Brogan, Washington, June 10

President Reagan has sent his tax cut proposals to Congress, and the Democrats are in confusion over what to do about them.

The President wants to reduce the federal tax by 25 per cent over the next three years, and he may well have the votes in the House of Representatives to pass the Bill. Republicans control the Senate and Mr Reagan will have no trouble there.

The Democrats have a majority of 52 in the House, and the President is well on the way to obtaining the support of the 27 he needs to carry the Bill. It has been submitted by Mr Barber Conable, senior Republican on the ways and means committee, and by Mr Kent Hance, a Democrat from Texas.

The President can thus claim that his is a bipartisan measure. When the budget resolution was presented on May 7, it passed 353 to 476, with over 60 Democrats voting in support of the President's side. The margin will be closer this time, but Mr Reagan has high hopes of success.

He has already won a significant tactical victory, by allowing the Democrats to propose a compromise, and then rejecting it. Mr Reagan wants taxes cut by 5 per cent from October 1, then by 10 per cent on July 1, 1982, and a further 10 per cent on July 1, 1983.

The Democrats, who started off opposing tax cuts, and then offering a one-year tax cut, proposed last week that taxes should be cut by 5 per cent this year and 10 per cent next as Mr Reagan wants, but that the third year should be left to work out on its merits.

They hoped that the President would accept the proposal and that they could therefore go before the electorate next year as responsible legislators, ready to relieve their voters' tax burdens but not to allow the budget deficit to increase.

Mr Reagan would have none of it, and the Democrats, who have already given up most of the ground, are left with a most precarious hold on the remainder.

Turk plea to Armenians

Ankara, June 10. — Turkey appealed today to Armenian communities throughout the world to protest against continuing attacks on Turkish diplomats abroad following last night's murder of a Turk in Geneva.

A Foreign Ministry statement said: "We expect Armenian communities all over the world

not to remain silent about these continuing murders, whose perpetrators claim they are acting on the Armenian behalf."

Mehmet Yerguez, a 37-year-old Turkish employee at the consulate in Geneva, was shot dead by a gunman in the street as he walked home. Police said the assailant, caught by passers-by, declared he was an Armenian.

Taiwan arms opposed

Peking, June 10. — China today voiced strong opposition to continued United States arms sales to Taiwan, in a statement issued only four days before the arrival in Peking of Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State.

According to the New China news agency, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said Peking would rather receive no American arms than accept continued United States interference.

IN BRIEF

Greece thwarts putsch plot
Athens, June 10. — Mr Evangelos Averoff, the Greek Defence Minister, disclosed tonight that he had thwarted a putsch by retired army officers on June 1, simply by ordering a military exercise in the Athens region earlier than scheduled.

He told Parliament that intelligence from three different, reliable sources indicated that a group of misguided retired officers had intended to stage an "action" at 2 a.m. Mr Averoff said their objectives were unclear. He would not ask for prosecution of those responsible. "What we must do," he said, "is keep an eye on them."

Shroud imprints

Chicago, June 10. — Computer analysis shows that imprints of coins on the Shroud of Turin were made by coins issued by Pontius Pilate about the time of Christ's crucifixion, the Rev Francis Filas, Professor of Theology at Loyola, reports.

Berlin arrests

Berlin, June 10. — Police detained 35 people during overnight street clashes with squatters here, a spokesman said today. Fighting broke out after police had searched houses occupied by squatters in the Kreuzberg district.

Sisters accused

Athens, June 10. — Two sisters, Litsa Tsangarakis, aged 23, and Katina, who is 20, wanted by police in connexion with the bombing of two Athens department stores last week, were charged today under Greece's anti-terrorism law.

Train victims found

Badia Ghat, India, June 10. — The bodies of 143 victims of last Saturday's train disaster have been recovered from the Bagmati river. Many others are still missing and officials estimate the final toll will be at least 800.

Lawmaker quits

Peking, June 10. — Mr Peng Zhen, one of China's foremost lawmakers and a high-ranking member of the Chinese Communist Party, has resigned as director of the legislative commission of the National People's Congress, Peking Radio said.

Strike at EEC

Brussels, June 10. — Most of the 8,500 staff of the European Commission went on strike today and are threatening to continue tomorrow because of a dispute with the EEC's Council of Ministers over pay.

Lost symphony

New York, June 10. — A long lost symphony written by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1765 when he was nine will be given its United States premiere at the Kennedy Centre in Washington on July 8.

Turks hang killer

Ankara, June 10. — Turkish authorities have hanged a convicted left-wing murderer. It was the sixth execution since last September's military coup, state radio reported.

Koch to stand again for mayor

From Michael Lippman, New York, June 10

Mr Edward Koch, whose first four-year term as Mayor of New York ends this year, officially declared himself a candidate for a second term today.

He seems certain to gain the nomination of both the Democratic and Republican parties in September's primaries, and would be the first candidate ever to seek re-election in the election with the support of both.

He was elected in 1977 as a Democrat but has since then lost the support of the left wing of the Democratic Party by his increasing fiscal conservatism and by his apparent lack of enthusiasm for social progress. For the same reasons, he has won increased support from Republicans and the right.

Today's announcement follows a series of favourable publicity for the mayor. This week his picture appeared on the cover of Time magazine. Today the New York Post endorsed his reelection in a glowing editorial, headlined "Yes, he's doing great."

A second term, the editorial said, was richly deserved.

It continued: "Under the leadership of this laughing, dedicated, exuberant mayor, New York has come out of the poorhouse and back to its rightful place as the world's most exciting city."

At the press conference announcing his bid for a second term, Mr Koch said he had brought discipline, stability and straight talk to the city's government, and emphasized that he had taken the budget back into balance.

CAMP DAVID SUMMIT SUCCESS

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, June 10

President López Portillo's state visit here over the weekend was a resounding success because the Mexican leader and Mr Reagan were both determined that the serious differences between them should not get in the way of good relations.

Mexico takes great exception to American policy in El Salvador and is worried about American moves towards Mexico immigration. There are differences between the two countries on oil supplies and they differ in their attitudes towards Cuba and the Caribbean. None of this mattered during President López's visit.

Mr Reagan made good relations with Mexico (and Canada) a centre-piece of his presidential campaign when he announced his candidature 18 months ago. He met President López shortly after his victory, and was to meet him again, in Mexico, when he was shot and wounded. President López's visit to Washington was arranged to replace that lost summit.

President Reagan took his guest to Camp David, for a bucolic weekend unlike the usual round of formal meetings and dinners that are the staple of most state visits. They therefore saw far more of each other than would normally be the case—and they were riding together.

Mr Reagan agreed to go to the North-South conference in Mexico in October, an event that the Mexicans consider of capital importance to their place in the world. In exchange, it was arranged that Dr Fidel Castro of Cuba would miss the meeting.

Leading article, page 17

Science report

Four more years of drought predicted

By the Staff of Nature

The long drought in sub-Saharan Africa, which has been causing immense hardship in countries from Senegal in the west to the Sudan in the east, may come to a temporary end in 1985, two French scientists who have been studying twentieth-century records of the flow of the river Senegal say.

Hugues Faure, a quarternary geologist at Marseille, and Jean-Yves Gac, of the French office for overseas research at Dakar, have pored over discharge measurements taken from 1903 to 1980 at two sampling points on the Senegal, and detected what they claim to be a cycle of drought in the region. Severe droughts return every three decades or so, they say. The droughts, they claim, are interspersed with "humid" conditions lasting about eighteen years. The region should now return to average rainfall by 1985, followed by a humid period, the next drought coming around 2005, the researchers say.

Those remarkable predictions are the result of a remarkable curve: the flow of the river Senegal averaged over seven years, and plotted year by year, shows a steady drop into drought (where annual flows are only half of those in humid times) and a slower rise back to normal.

There have been two humid periods this century, from 1917 to 1937 and 1949 to 1959, and both have shown slight dips towards dryness in the middle of the period. The new, complete cycle of drought and humidity this century, from 1913 to 1941 and 1941 to 1975, are almost exactly equivalent to each other, making this one of the most perfect examples of climatic repeatability yet. It is this that enables the researchers to be so confident about their 1985 prediction.

Others, however, may not be quite so confident. The sub-Saharan rains depend on northward shifts in the boundaries of the African monsoon, and such a mass ejection has never before been detected in monsoon movements. More over the source of the Senegal lies in highland regions enjoying quite high rainfall, so its flow does not directly reflect precipitation in the droughts.

There is also no understanding of the need for seven-year means, which happen to show the cycle most clearly. So while Faure and Gac's conclusions are sufficiently convincing to be worth further scrutiny, they should not be taken by the aid agencies as a signal to reduce support to the region over the next few years. Even scientists can be wrong sometimes.

Source: *Nature* vol 291 p 475 (11 June 81).
©Nature-Times News Service, 1981.

US death penalty Bill

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, June 10

In a move which is bound to provoke an outcry from civil rights organizations and liberal Congressmen, the Senate judiciary committee has voted to approve a Bill designed to reduce the federal death penalty for crimes such as treason, espionage and presidential assassination.

Senator Strom Thurmond, a Republican from North Carolina, said the death penalty Bill was needed because of the great increase in crime in the country. He predicted it would win approval by the Senate but could run into tough opposition in the House of Representatives.

The Bill represents the most determined attempt to introduce a new death penalty law in the US since 1977 when the Supreme Court invalidated all federal and state death penalty provisions.

The Bill would not apply to the great majority of murders which occur in the United States because most of them are state rather than federal crimes.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHILD BENEFIT AND BENEFITS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

Because of strike action at DHSS computer centres changes will be necessary in the way these benefits are paid. Please follow these instructions.

Child benefit.

- Until further notice do **not** send your order book to the Child Benefit Centre at Washington. Instead, contact your local social security office.
- Go to your local post office to get your benefit paid in the usual way.
- If your order book runs out you can still go to the post office to be paid. Make sure you take your old order book with you—and your second book if you have one.
- If your circumstances change you must still report it to your local social security office.
- If you want to claim child benefit for a new child you can do so in the normal way, but there will be a delay before you can be paid.

Benefits for the unemployed.

- Go to your local unemployment benefit office as usual. There you will be told how your benefit will be paid.

Issued by the Department of Health & Social Security

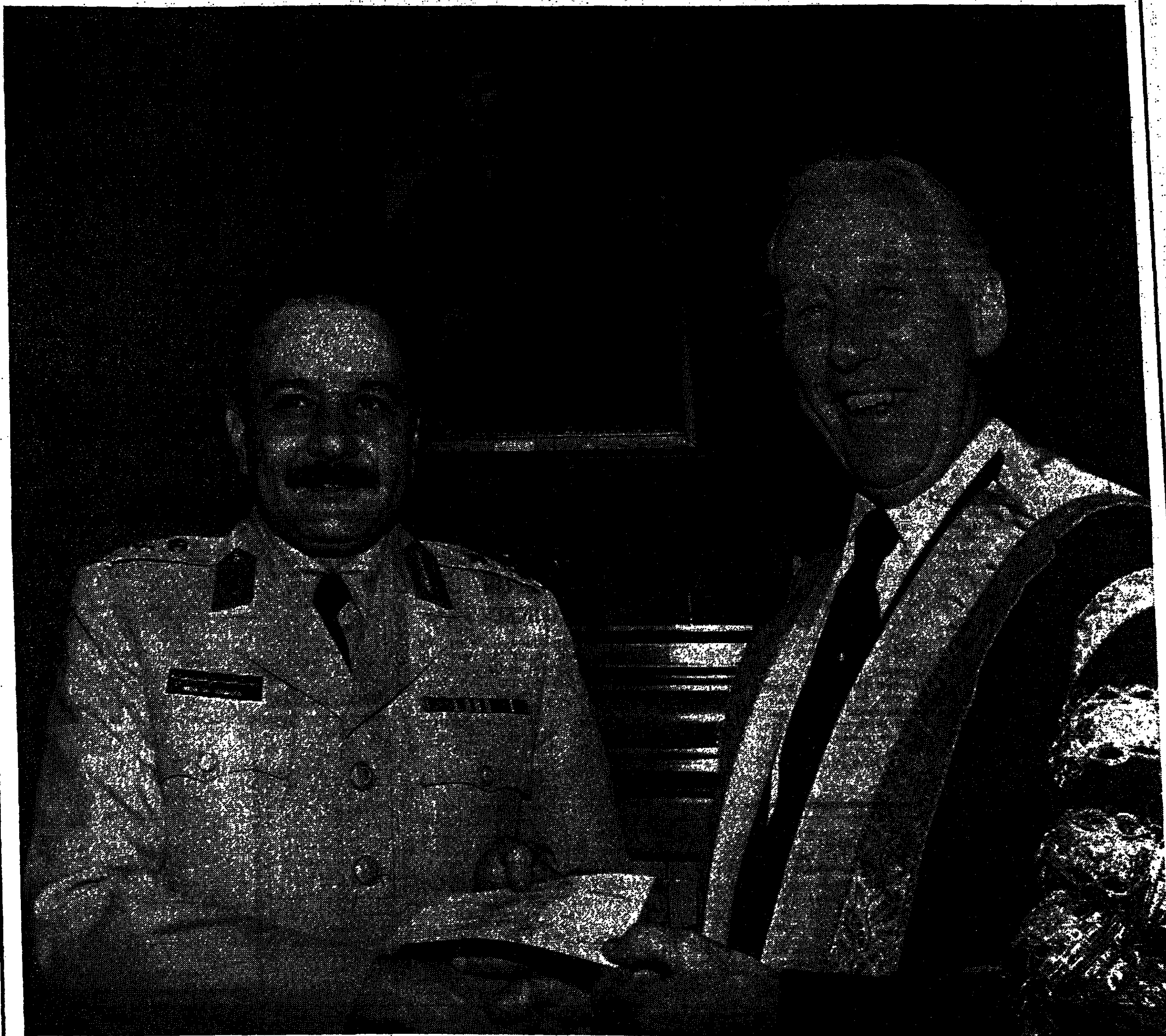
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مركز الامن

SAUDI ARABIA

helps the world's surgeons



Major General Rida Khalifa, FRCS Ed, head of the Medical Services Division of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defence has been authorised by His Majesty King Khalid bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Fahid bin Abdul Aziz, Deputy of the Council of Ministers, Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, Chief of the National Guard, 2nd Deputy of the Council of Ministers, and Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Defence and Aviation and General Inspector, to make a modest donation of £350,000 to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the U.K.'s oldest medical institution founded in 1505.

The donation is intended to further the goodwill set up over the years and to develop further ties between Ministry of Defence and Aviation hospitals in every aspect of healthcare including such areas as research and training.

It is a natural inclination to look to the College for help because of its major contribution to the training of surgeons all over the world, an increasing number of whom are now coming from Saudi.

In practical terms, the donation is being used by the College for the restoration of the

disused St. Michael's church, which will be converted into a symposium and exhibition hall situated within the square adjacent to the main College building. In general this whole square is being redeveloped for postgraduate education at a cost of £1.6 million and will also include a group of 112 graduate residences, and administration offices. Eventually, this whole development phase is aimed at covering a wide area of medicine through to family practice. The result, it is hoped, will be the re-integration of medicine which in the past, because of rapid advances and increased specialisation, has been in danger of a lack of co-ordination.

In accepting the donation, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Professor John Gillingham, wishes to thank the Government of Saudi Arabia and believes that in doing so, it will help the College to play an even greater role in the education of surgeons, not only from Saudi Arabia, but from all over the world.

In recognition of the donation, the new symposium hall will be called "The King Khalid bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia Symposium Hall".

This advertisement is donated by Allied Medical Group, London, in association with the Saudi Arabian Government.

Women at work: the five wasted years

[illegible]

NEW BOOKS

His own worst enemy

Monty: The Making of a General, 1887-1942

By Nigel Hamilton

(Hamish Hamilton, £12)

Hagiography is the occupational disease of the official biographer, and there are good reasons why Mr. Hamilton might have succumbed. He was not born at the time of Alamein (with which this first volume ends); not, indeed, until 1944. Through lack of wartime experience — and the scepticism it generates — his judgment might well have been affected by his warm friendship with Montgomery and by the fact that his father, Sir Denis, was about him this is the most accurate, the most explicit, and by far the most illuminating. It is very long. It is bursting with new material, and the narrative, though fluent and engaging, is sometimes prolix and repetitive. Mr. Hamilton's old head is on young shoulders, and his ardour to explain and exemplify contrasts uncomfortably at times with a maturity of mind which seems in total command of its theme and eminently sensible in its verdicts. No matter. The interested layman will be fascinated, and the attentive student will find here a mine of fresh information within which they can hack away happily for years. The irrepressible enfant terrible always wanted his biography, at times with a maturity of mind which seems in total command of its theme and eminently sensible in its verdicts. As Monty's biographer Mr. Hamilton faced two unavoidable problems: psychological explanation of a character so

complicated and wayward that some (we learn) thought him mad, and technical analysis of a military commander's performance which, though outstanding, was less than his own vainglorious pretensions. The portrait of the man is all-important, since depreciation of Montgomery's generalship has too often been founded on the distaste or contempt generated by a personality that even the long-suffering Eisenhower could tolerate no more. Mr. Hamilton has to account for a man who was his own worst enemy.

Montgomery's latterday revelations about early maltreatment by his mother always seemed to be hysterically high pitched. But Mr. Hamilton's fully documented exposure of an extended love-hate relationship leaves no doubt that there is the heart of the matter. From the wound of rejection Monty derived both the lifelong quest for affection, often infantile in its naivete, and also that ruthless determination to show that he too could "come good". The Bishop's wife, married her son. It is moving to observe, in the revealing letters which he wrote to his mother during the first world war (and which have never been previously published), how even in Armageddon he is making a play for the love he denied.

In the last boyhood of Judas Christ was betrayed.

Montgomery's sense of loss, conscious or unconscious, was no cruel irony. It was, perhaps, now view with a larger charity all the perverse, petty, fatuous, self-advertising and even vicious traits which his biographer recognises as clearly as did his enemies. Commanders are still human beings. Slim was blessed with a stable temperament; Mountbatten had a maelstrom within. Patton and Wavell were bent inside. Mr. Hamilton has served Montgomery well by re-affirming the nature of his particular demon. The passionate and monk-like commitment to professional perfection was, at least in part, an attempt to exercise it. Much new light is thrown on that devouring exercise in self-education, and military colleges could well take Mr. Hamilton's narrative as a text-book demonstration of "the making of a general". Alamein was climactic: the consummation of a learning-process. Mr. Hamilton has done his homework thoroughly; his immensely detailed account of what happened,

after Montgomery arrived in Egypt in 1942 is buttressed by fresh and telling quotations from the relevant War Diaries and other documents, and by interviews with key figures of irreproachable authority who seem to have decided that here, at last, was the time to speak out. Few battles have been more analysed than Alamein, but now, it appears, we shall all have to go back to square one.

Certainly those writers who, relying too much on second-hand evidence from sacking and second-rate generals, maintain that after Auchinleck's "victory" at the so-called "first Alamein" he had a specific and viable plan for defeating Rommel's next offensive — which Montgomery "stole" — or that Eighth Army was then in anything but disarray, with further retreat a known possibility, will have to think again. Mr. Hamilton's accumulated testimonies are decisive: no one, for example, can deny the absolute authority of Field Marshal Lord Harding as it is now disclosed. It confirms what those of us who were in the desert at the time sensed after Monty took over: a sea-change was happening, and there was a different, invigorating tang in the air.

It is impossible to summarize the many new, and sometimes disquieting, insights into Alamein. Montgomery's positive attitude towards the Ultra intelligence, for example, will surprise those who claim that it was disquieting. The senior commander's attitude was known, but it is stunning to discover that the withdrawal of our tank divisions from the battlefield was not, as is usually assumed, an effort to create a reserve force for further attacks, but an act of despair about their lethargy. There is much meat here for contentious historians.

Monty's faith was that his private papers would vindicate him. So far, this seems to be the case. And his biographer, by contrast, was at least in part, an attempt to exercise it. Much new light is thrown on that devouring exercise in self-education, and military colleges could well take Mr. Hamilton's narrative as a text-book demonstration of "the making of a general". Alamein was climactic: the consummation of a learning-process. Mr. Hamilton has done his homework thoroughly; his immensely detailed account of what happened,

Ronald Lewin



What can all these, knight at arms... In the long, hot summer of 1858 Edward Burne-Jones found himself much in the company of the formidable Sara Prinsep, Egeria of the salon that gathered in her home, Little Holland House. He was introduced by Rossetti, his master and hero. Mrs Prinsep did not think Rossetti a suitable influence on the delicate young painter, and moved Burne-Jones into the house for several months to be nursed and kept in the right company. About this time he made up the Little Holland House Album for Mrs Prinsep's youngest sister, Sophia, the youngest of the seven Patten sisters who played such an important role in mid-Victorian cultural life. It transcribes eight romantic poems, each with graceful pen-and-ink drawings in illustration. They have never been published before, but now appear in facsimile with an introduction and notes by John Christian — the first publication of a new private press, The Dalrymple Press of Leuchie, North Berwick, in a limited edition of 530.

Stands Scotland where it did?

The End of British Politics?

By William L. Miller

(Oxford, £17.50)

Is Britain one nation, or two, or many nations? Have the social and regional differences so evident in the behaviour of the electorate in 1979 come to erode that sense of belonging to a single country which writers such as George Orwell noticed in the 1930s? In *The End of British Politics?* is concerned with one central aspect of this question: its aim is to outline the specifically Scottish dimension of the British civil society, and to show how the gap in attitudes between the English and Scottish voter is at least as great as that between different social classes. Indeed, Miller believes that the Scottish dimension will again come to threaten, as it did between 1924 and 1929, the very existence of Britain as a United Kingdom.

The Parliamentary Union of 1707 joined Scotland and England politically while leaving Scottish civil society untouched. Paradoxically, however, twentieth-century developments have served to narrow the social differences between English and Scottish voters, while drawing them apart politically. The expansion of government and its centralization in Westminster and Whitehall have sapped the vigour of Scottish local institutions, for in Scotland, as Walter Elliot noticed, nationalization meant de-nationalization — less accountability rather than more. Belief in the virtues of central planning became an essential

cement of political Union. When that belief collapsed, it was natural for Scots to use their electoral strength to secure benefits from a seemingly insensitive London government; or alternatively, to threaten to opt out of the British political system entirely by voting for the SNP.

Through a painstaking analysis of electoral data, Miller proves quite conclusively the existence of a distinctively Scottish approach to politics, displayed not only in attitudes to nationwide United Kingdom problems such as housing and education, but also in specifically Scottish issues. Devolution, he argues, is a conventional wisdom tells us, is dead. Yet Miller shows how widespread and stable the demand for Scottish self-government remains, a demand by no means confined to the SNP. Indeed, he estimates that at around 60 per cent of the electorate, despite wide swings in support for the Scottish Nationalists.

It is a pity that Miller is unable to analyse the evolution of Scottish opinion since 1979, or to reach a conclusion as to whether the demand for Scottish self-government was deep and genuine, or merely an unthinking reflex to the importunities of the political interviewer. Indeed, it may well be that the weapons of the electoral survey, however technically sophisticated, are hardly subtle enough to detect those feelings central to a group's conception of its nationality. Miller's data would have led one to expect a far more substantial majority for devolution than in fact materialized in the referendum of 1979, that turning

point of Scottish politics when Scottish politics obstinately refused to turn. He attributes the defeat of devolution to essentially short-term factors — resentment at public sector strikes, and the unpopularity of the Callaghan government — but it is at least as plausible to explain the strong demand for devolution between 1965 and 1974, and the spectacular growth of the SNP in Scottish self-confidence now shattered by mounting unemployment and industrial closures.

Miller's belief is that Scottish and English political attitudes will continue to diverge, and he offers persuasive arguments in support of this view. Indeed, the repeal of the Scotland Act was itself a symptom of the gap in attitudes since a majority of Scots voters had endorsed it and Scottish MPs opposed its repeal by 41 votes to 19. George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, enjoys the support of only 22 Conservative MPs in Scotland, and this makes him less a representative of Scotland to the Cabinet than a prefect imposed by an unpopular government upon an outlying region of the country.

The End of British Politics? is a powerful plea for recognition of the urgent need for constructive constitutional change in Scotland, although Miller is realistic enough to appreciate that "the record of British governments in squandering the precious resources of peaceful time gives no ground for optimism."

Vernon Bogdanor

Naked at the Feast, the biography of Josephine Baker (Robson, £7.50). In the first volume of the series, published on June 25.

The Matriarch

The Queen Mother By Elizabeth Longford

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £7.95)

Lady Longford is herself, of course, the literary world's surrogate Queen Mother. Matriarch of a large, noble and talented family (not without its own black sheep), she radiates the kind of very personal charm even the most cynical cannot resist; and long after the generation behind her has come to the fore, she continues to maintain her own standards of productivity and excellence.

If there is, therefore, some disappointment that this book does not approach the scale and thoughtfulness of her earlier biographies, there is meanwhile the consolation that no one can be better qualified to chronicle the life and times of Queen Elizabeth than Lady Longford.

Lady Longford's "more eccentric musings" are, however, it was, she declares, that Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon should become Queen only 14 years after marrying the Duke of York — one senses the author turning the mirror upon herself.

This is not a year for expressing reservations about the Royal Family, nor has there ever been a year when there was any mileage in attacking the Queen Mother. Godfrey Talbot's saccharine volume for *Country Life* three years ago plumb the depths of royal cynicism. Lady Longford, more appropriately, simply gives credit where it is due.

Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon did not want to become a Princess. She subscribed to the dictum of the late Princess Alice: "None but those trained from youth to such an ordeal can sustain it with amiability and composure." (The Arts Page on Spencer, we should hardly note, has been trained to "it from birth.") So, at first, she turned down the proposal of King George V's younger son.

When he begged her into accepting the role, she made the making of the man. This shy, stammering, insecure figure, soon to become King George VI, was eventually into the nation's rallying-point in the darkest hours. His wife, during the war, anticipated Nancy Reagan by keeping a revolver by her bed; how typical of her not to use it, merely press the bell, when a hostile and penetrating eye Buckingham Palace bedroom.

Lady Longford, like all the Queen Mother's biographers, is unduly hard on those she calls "the underserving Windsors", taking her subject's and Queen Mary's part in the events which propelled the Yorks towards the throne. But she is shrewder than most in analysing the Queen Mother's truly classless appeal: the public persona that Cecil Beaton called "that great mother-figure and nannie to us all".

Her "majesty" was achieved, as the author rightly keeps reminding us, despite an unhelpfully small stature and a proneness to "flu. But it is her second wind, which Lady Longford more delicately calls her "Indian summer", which is the true fascination. It is only since her husband's death that Queen Elizabeth has become, in the author's words, "the most popular Queen consort in our history".

It was Churchill, apparently, who "said something" — nobody will ever know what — about the widowed Queen back into public life, when to those around her she seemed bent on a Victorian retreat from society. In the ensuing years (as many now as those of her marriage) she has done quite as much as the Queen and her heir to render the monarchy as secure as at any time in its history.

In royal circles, indeed, Prince Charles's choice of a bride is regarded as something of a "victory" for the forces of the Queen Mother, who has been close to Lady Diana's family all her life, over those of the late Lord Mountbatten, who waged an undisguised campaign to become Princess of Wales. How extraordinarily present Queen Elizabeth was to the death of George V, on his deathbed, to have declared: "I pray to God that my eldest son will never marry and have children, and that nothing will come between Edward and Lilbet and the Throne."

Lord Weidenfeld seems to have become the leading publisher of royal biographies at a time when the field is apparently crowded. I must, as another who wears his colours, declare my interest; but Lady Longford's handsomely produced volume is a proud achievement. It is a metaphor for her subject, if she will pardon the expression, would be the first to approve.

Anthony Holden

Inside the insider

Destination Peace

Three Decades of Israeli Foreign Policy

By Gideon Rafael

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.95)

From the contemplative, faintly quizzical expression of Ambassador Rafael's photograph on the back cover you might suppose that this memoir was merely another diplomatic odyssey from one sedate post to another. You would be wrong. Mr. Rafael's career in the Israeli Foreign Service began in 1948, as a teenage boy in the "backpack little house" on the "Tel Aviv" in May, 1948, as the Arabs were about to attack, on "Opening Night at the Foreign Ministry" — the title of his first, admirably light-hearted, chapter. It ended four years later — in 1974, while peace negotiations with Egypt were still under way and with an ultimate settlement of Israel's frontiers or future still uncertain.

In the 30 years between Ambassador Rafael himself regularly attended all the United Nations meetings from 1948 to 1977. He was in charge of Middle East affairs at the United Nations from 1954 to 1957; Deputy Director from 1960 to 1965 and Director-General (Permanent Under-Secretary) from 1965 to 1977. No Israeli diplomat with the possible exception of Abba Eban has been more at the heart of Israel's crisis-ridden diplomacy from its earliest improvisations.

Since the author was certainly an insider of insiders his book, described in sub-titles as "Three Decades of Israeli Foreign Policy" and "A Personal Memoir" could be exciting; but it would be naive to expect that, and the expectant reader will be disappointed.

The Ambassador is, however, at his likable best at moments when he can declare his real feelings most openly, when, for instance, the Israeli flag is raised for the first time at the United Nations or when he visits the Old City of Jerusalem after the Six Day War in 1967.

A. M. Rendel

The BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Nicholas Kenyon traces the growth and progress of the BBC Symphony Orchestra during its first fifty years. He tells of its early successes; the trials of wartime life; Sir Malcolm Sargent's celebrated quarrel with the BBC; and the influence of Sir William Glock in the Sixties. He also introduces great conductors who have worked with the Orchestra.

There is a foreword by Sir Adrian Boult, and useful appendices listing the Orchestra's members, recordings and first performances.

£22.50 from booksellers

BBC PUBLICATIONS

Nicholas Kenyon retails the whole story with candour and thoroughness, and also with grace and wit. —Paul Griffiths, The Times

Alternative Raj

A Biographical Dictionary of the British Colonial Governor

Volume I: Africa

By Anthony H. M. Kirk-Greene

(Harvester, £40)

In death as in life, it is the Indian Empire which most excites the British when they contemplate their imperial experience, juniper fire and verandah tea, Cawnpore, Mrs Hawksbee, *The Far Pavilions* and all that. The old preoccupation gives an extra freshness now to books about the rest of the lost empire, and offers happy new fields of endeavour to scholars and artists ready to delve into other imperial myths. A pioneer in this promising safari is Anthony Kirk-Greene of St Antony's College Oxford, himself a *quondam* District Officer, who has made a specialty of might be called the Alternative Raj.

His author boasts endearingly that from it you may discover

graphy, and it consists of a minute examination of the minds of men who ruled the 20 odd African possessions seized by the British at one time or another. This is a harder job than it may sound, for colonial documentation was unexpectedly patchy, colonies repeatedly changed names and status, titles varied from one possession to another, and some colonialists it seems were not above slightly fudging their entries in *Who's Who*.

Mr. Kirk-Greene, though, is nothing if not a stickler, and his book is striking evidence of his perseverance, for it gives us in effect all known biographical and bibliographical details about every British Governor who served in Africa between the 1870s, when the Crown really became the Colonial Power, and the end of the empire in the 1960s. The 329 entries it is not a volume likely to find its way into many private libraries, but it will clearly be invaluable to all future students and celebrators of the Alternative Raj.

Its author boasts endearingly that from it you may discover

the professions of gubernatorial fathers-in-law, or the frequency with which Governors married wives, and indeed the box of all of dead-pan entertainment. How marvellous that Edward Twining, one-time Director of Labour in Mauritius, should have become "Lord Twining of Godalming" on the grounds of his services to the Empire. How splendid that Charles Elton, Commissioner of the British East Africa Protectorate, should be such an expert on Buddhism, Finnish grammar, and the life of the sheep! Mr. Kirk-Greene is not absolutely infallible. He mis-titles Mr. Philip Mason's most famous book, and he evidently does not realize that Brigadier Sir James Valsgjaard, former Administrator of the Gambia died during home leave from St. Lucia in 1897. But his book, to be followed by a second volume on the Eastern Hemisphere, is as complete a source-book as almost anyone could wish — a treasury of characters for future novelists, a mountain of fuel for the writers' computer and Associate Professors' eager seminars.

Jan Morris

Fiction

Noble House

By James Clavell

(Hodder & Stoughton, £8.95)

Trade Wind

By M. M. Kaye

(Allen Lane, £7.50)

Swan's Wing

By Ursula Sygne

(Bodley Head, £4.95)

Six Problems for Don Isidro Parodi

By Jorge Luis Borges and Adolfo Bioy-Casares

(Allen Lane, £5.95)

Illusion stalks those of us who brood over the quest for the novel-reading on the Central Line. Escalator ads become dust jackets in disturbing *deja vu*. Fellow travellers slump into stories. Force-fed with fiction, incipient dementia, interpolated, dotty double exposures: book titles more plausible than actual ones. If *Cheap Day Return* and *One Russell Hobbs Deserves Another* have not come up for review, it is only a matter of time.

Until the quiet men in white coats arrive it seems possible still to believe that neither this, me, nor Auntie Mabel is due to count to suppose that James Clavell's 1,115 pages and M. M. Kaye's 551 add up to more than a row of beans. These are blockbusters. It is not indeed often that two books of this size follow that blockbusters are two cents' worth of entertaining — never mind meritorious — fiction. I would not give *Swan's Wing*, still less *Jorge Luis Borges'* elegant extravaganza,

for a wilderness of blockbusters. *Noble House* comes fourth in an historical series set in Mr. Clavell's less than mysterious, more gratuitously vulgar visions of the East. In this case, it is about money, kidnapping, money, espionage, fire, murder, landside and money, with little bits of what you fancy on the side.

Ursula Sygne needs no pinchbeck publicity. Happy children are the only heralds worth having: her books for younger readers are persuasive advertisements for *Swan's Wing*, her first novel for adults, which follows the fate of the eleventh prince in Hans Andersen's *The Wild Swans*. Here is a fable distinguished in execution as in theme.

It is a tale of two pilgrims. Lothar wanders, seeking relief for his affliction: a swan's wing in place of an arm. The story is told with a swan's grace, an exactness of language, gravely, by Matthew, master maker of

lastling glories in stone to adorn cathedrals soaring out of medieval faith: timeless guardians of such humility as we have left; as children guard our innocence. Matthew is himself a swan: a swan's wing in place of an arm. The story is told with a swan's grace, an exactness of language, gravely, by Matthew, master maker of

Where Time Winds Blow, by Robert Holdstock (Faber, £6.95). On a planet where time shifts and a group of surgically disabled humans try to find reasons for their environment and themselves, Faulcon leads to find answers. Mr. Holdstock is adept at suggesting those things glimpsed at the corner of the eye; a powerful imagination at work.

Silence Is Deadly, by Lloyd Biggle Jr (Millington, £5.95). On the planet of the deaf the one-eyed man is very much at the mercy of others. Well-paced narrative which accelerates to a notable climax, in pursuit of a death-ray, in a place where silence is not only golden but inevitable.

The Cool War, by Frederik Pohl (Collins, £5.95). Unlabeled by the title, this is a science-fiction novel in which a force which inflicts tiny, irritating damage on the other side, just in the same way they're doing it to us: that's why he's going away. This is a novel about Europe. Mr. Pohl's satire is always distanced and savage, but here he becomes too entangled in plot for his or our good. Effective way of estab-

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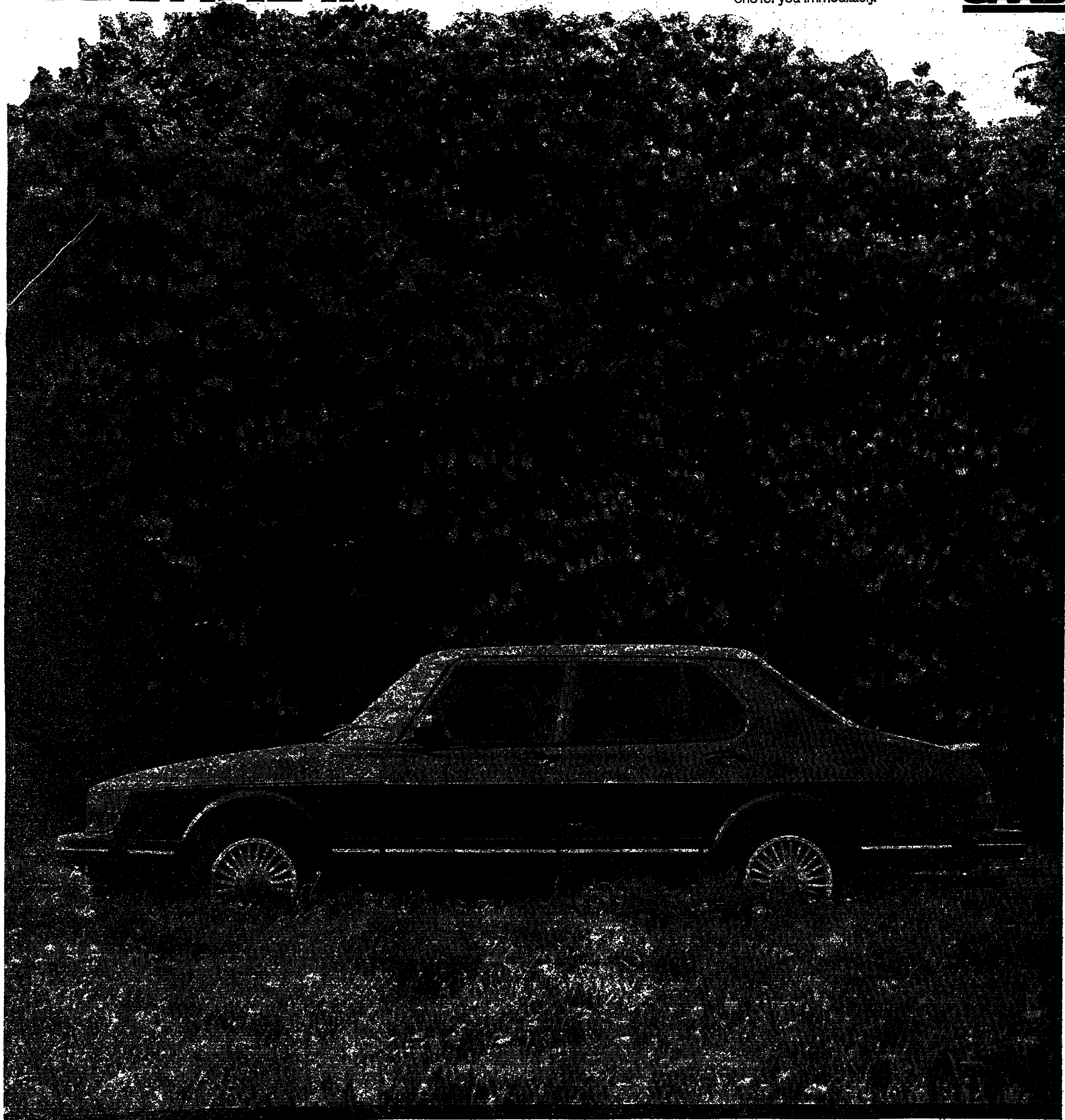
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A concrete solution for the railways

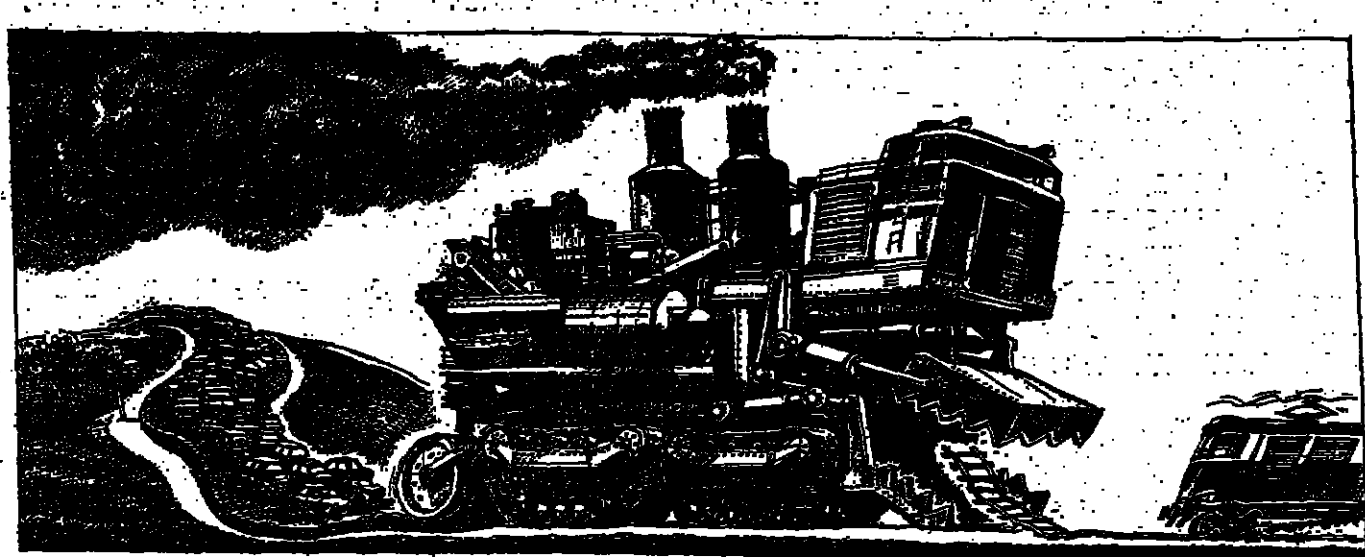
The state expenditure clause is filling the air with demands for extensive and expensive programmes of railway electrification. But the prior question should be whether railways should continue to operate in Britain at all.

In this country railways are an increasingly costly anachronism, and would be so even were it not for nationalisation and consequent constituency importunities and trade union domination.

Since the end of the Second World War British Rail has cost the public tens of billions at present-day prices. Through this decade, BR's books, generations of taxpayers still bear it. BR's present over-subsidies, now close to three-quarters of a billion annually, plus the large, but substantially under-estimated, budget for further electrification, and the accumulated cost of maintenance deferred to permit over-spending on wages and salaries and deferral of price-increases, are only a fraction of the real current loss. For rail is not only costly in manpower and energy, it is fantastically wasteful of a vital scarce resource: the right of way through town, suburb and countryside.

Britain has only 1,250 miles of motorway, and not much in the way of other segregated trunk roads. For the rest, traffic—private and public, passenger and freight—has to pass through residential streets and country lanes, with houses and shops bordering them, and sewers, cables and other ducts passing underneath.

The road and street network has to carry over 80 per cent of all passenger and freight mileage, the residual 20 per cent being divided equally between coastal shipping and inland rail. Possesses 11,000 miles of segregated right of way, made up of anything from multi-track lines with their sidings and marshalling yards—each capable of carrying an ultra-motorway with way and yet leaving a good deal of land over—down to two-track lines, which are capable of providing for at least an adequate two-lane highway for through



John Cameron

by Alfred Sherman

freight services and express buses and coaches, which are present plough through our high streets.

The railway network is now being used to less than 5 per cent of feasible capacity, while our streets and their environs are turned into a permanent hell. A high proportion of road accidents occur in built-up areas. Transferring part of the road traffic on to segregated tracks—several times the total length of our motorway system—would reduce accidents.

The contrast between road over-crowding and rail-based under-utilization is particularly acute in our great conurbations, eg. the London metropolitan region. The vast network of suburban and connecting lines, particularly non-radials, was developed when rail and horse were complementary. By now, nearly all of the small freight services and depots have been closed, and many of the passenger services too, leaving only a few lines in the network with only a few trains a week.

As Professor Peter Hall of Reading demonstrated in detail, this network could be used—without even halting

necessary train movements—to supplement the metropolitan regions' trunk road service so simply that practically all through and heavy traffic and public transport (coach, and bus too in many cases) could be taken off London and suburban streets.

Railways, however powered, became an anachronism with the development of the pneumatic tyre, which permits any loads to be carried on standard roads, given reasonable axle-loading. Road transport obviates double handling, inevitable with rail in all but very large bulk loads.

Many passenger rail journeys, particularly inter-city, began and end by road, obliging many passengers to come to the centre from the periphery at both ends, multiplying congestion. By contrast, express coaches (with VCs and comfortable springs) are both more adaptable to variable need, and can act as feeders at both ends of their main run.

So far, the main obstacle to inland transport's accommoda-

tion to the twentieth century has been rail, vested interests, both management and union, and political powers and standard of luxury would disappear with the iron dinosaur.

But BR has been actively helped in resisting change by the Ministry of Transport (as almost all nationalized work-simulation and waste centres are by "their" departments).

It has exploited all its bureaucratic skills to this end. Indeed, many of the Ministry of Transport briefs against closures, against conversion and in favour of greater expenditure on electrification, appear to originate from British Rail's propaganda workshops, which do not stop at simple causality, but ride roughshod over ascertainable fact, as the Advertising Standards Commission, among others, has ruled, on several occasions.

For example, in spite of Ministry briefs, exact measurement shows that there are hardly any existing railways unsuitable for conversion into

roads. In a few cases, bridges may cause difficulties, but almost none are insuperable. What little environmental disturbance might be created by conversion would be negligible compared with traffic's ravages in towns.

Contrary to BR claims, rail uses much more fuel per passenger or freight mile than coaches, and rather more than small cars, taking actual use figures, and not theoretical ones which assume all trains to be fully loaded, and all cars with one passenger.

Railway engines and coaches are heavy and robust, so they are heavy and move a great deal of their own weight per passenger, even when filled to near capacity. The great weight of trains entails long stopping distances, hence relatively low frequencies, and a highly complicated costly system of signals, all vulnerable to union disruption.

Cars and coaches being lighter and better suited to braking, have much lower stopping distances; they entail little in the way of signals and thus can carry a far greater number of people on a given track, and provide their own

feeder services. Roads cannot stop on a strike. Electrification entails transferring fuel to heat steam to motion, with substantial losses (symbolized by cooling-towers) motion to electricity, some of which is used up in transmission and transforming, and then electricity into traction. With losses at each stage, it is lucky to achieve 15 per cent efficiency.

Railway propaganda claims that electrification would save oil. But the amount saved would equal one per cent of total consumption (transport accounts for 20 per cent of total British oil consumption) at a cost 10 times that of producing that quantity of oil from coal, and even greater than that of expanding NSO production by a comparable amount.

BR's total costings for electrification have no relation to costs already generated in the recent Bedford line scheme. (Electrification also entails vast sums on signalling and new engines.) It will do so, like the gift of ships to Poland, at the expense of taxpayers and other users of these resources, at the cost of re-equipment of the private sector of British industry, and of exports. (There is certainly an export market in railway electrification equipment, since those countries capable of using such equipment invariably manufacture it.)

When their rationalizations are disposed of, it remains an accident that British Rail, for the sake of self-perpetuation—keeping Sydney Weighell turning—is not just wasting billions of taxpayers' money, but is depriving us of a priceless asset: the road-bed needed to provide urban and country roads to meet all our transport needs for decades to come without digging up a field or demolishing a house.

Can the nation not repossess its property and put it to social use?

Ronald Butt

By-election of the century

The Social Democratic Party does not yet have a leader. Mr. Jenkins is the only one who has not yet been elected. The party is in a state of flux, and the by-election is a crucial test of its future.

His great strength is that he enters this fight to capture a Labour stronghold at precisely the moment when the great question of the future alternative to Conservative government in Britain needs to be taken out of the background and into the country. The time has come when it is no longer enough for the matter to be fought out in Labour Party and union (or even SDP) caucuses, or in attacks by Mr. Benn on his colleagues and their philosophies against him. The opinion of the voters needs to be asked, and Mr. Jenkins is right to ask it in a Labour stronghold.

Warrington electors will have to answer the question which sooner or later, will confront Britain's voters as a whole. Will they have, as the alternative to the Conservatives, a Labour Party cast in an exclusively leftist mould (whether or not of Behnke allegiance) accountable primarily to the party machine rather than to the electors through a Parliament? Or do they want a social democratic party more or less of the traditional Labour kind, evolving from the roots planted by Asquith and Lloyd George in the early years of the century?

It is Mr. Jenkins' strength that he is prepared to fight where he is by no means certain of victory. In the end, the calibre of a politician is to be judged by his willingness to take risks when he judges the cause great enough and Mr. Jenkins takes the risk of being beaten. Yet Warrington is a seat that the Social Democrats may win, and striking a balance of the opinion polls so far, it could be a neck-and-neck finish between SDP and Labour.

Whether Mr. Jenkins wins or loses he will have maximum political exposure as Labour's former deputy leader and a successful Chancellor of the Exchequer. If he wins he will be the only Social Democratic MP to have been elected under that flag, and when easily re-elected his claim to be leader? Not, certainly, Mrs. Williams; nor, I think, Dr. Owen or Mr. Williams Rogers.

Even if he loses, Mr. Jenkins will still have the credentials of a leader, and the time comes for the choice of an SDP leader. But no less important is the scope that the Warrington campaign will give him to formulate the basics of social democratic policy and to state his own discretion.

By the nature of things, he must largely construct his own platform; there is no party line for him to toe. He comes to this by-election, as a potential leader, more free to chart the direction of his party's policy than any other political leader in the country, and to take his personal vision of a social democratic future to the electors in the manner in which great nineteenth century leaders took their cause to the hustings.

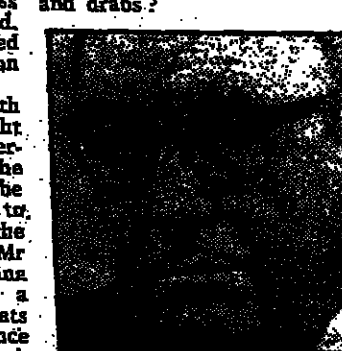
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That is something that should have been proposed before the crucial 1979 conference, when it would have been possible to lead the PLP into a commitment to refuse to accept the election of a leader not of their own choosing. Now it is too late to turn the clock back on that principle—unless Labour splits into the Labour Party, the Conference and NEC, and the Labour Party of Parliament. And in that event, where can the Labour Party of Parliament go, except to the redoubt which the SDP have prepared for them?

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Roy Jenkins: risking it.

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Is this Foot's final fling?

by Julian Haviland, Political Editor



Michael Foot: no trace.

before both the party and the uncommitted elector.

So Michael Foot's is a dismal inheritance, which has been crumbling even as he tries to gather it.

Some who sympathize blame his predecessor for going too soon, or too late; for causing the rupture in government between the party's political wing and the trade unions, and failing to repair it subsequently; for letting two successive annual conferences, repudiate almost every policy followed by Labour in government, and put the parliamentary party and its readers on indefinite trial.

Severer critics say that Foot, as Callaghan's deputy and accomplice, himself helped to engender his present troubles. In particular, at Bishops Cleeve last June, Foot supported Callaghan in agreeing, under pressure from trade union leaders, to abandon the historic right of MPs alone to elect the leader. They miscalculated: the single step back which they had intended became several steps. Once that ground was yielded, Michael Foot's period as leader was a mere formality, and to dis-miss every autonomy the Labour Party in democracy's name—has ensured that he will be that much diminished.

compromise over the make-up of the college for electing the leader was repudiated; and at once the Social Democrats committed themselves to their damaging defection.

Michael Foot has failed these first two tests of the special skills—the skills of the leader—for which he has been chosen by the deciding votes of the parliamentary party's nervous centre.

These early reverses have made his leadership so far a token one. There is plenty of display: he has the energy and will to harangue the party rallies and march with the unemployed; and in Parliament the persistence to get under the Prime Minister's skin with some regularity.

But he knows, and last week admitted, that Labour is in no state to mount any sustained attack on the Government. The army is still divided. With re-election in full swing, it is not clear how any of the front-line troops will be allowed to re-enlist. Morale is poor.

Frustrated by their continuing weakness, Michael Foot and his Shadow Cabinet colleagues had by last week come to see Tony Benn as the major, perhaps the only, obstacle to their success.

To a man, they believed that Benn was carrying his campaign forward by traducing every one of them; that he meant to continue; and that victory for him would destroy the party's remaining cohesion. Last week's challenge to single combat changed everything. Whether it was an act of courage (as his admirers say) or a tactical mistake (as the Benn camp say) it was an act of unparalleled self-assertion which has started a reassessment of the leader's character. Here was the unlikely of leaders in some ways, with his hatred of discipline and his lifelong affinity with rebels,

galvanised by the anti-leadership of Tony Benn.

Perhaps he was desperate, perhaps attracted by the romanticism of putting his fate "unto the touch, to win or lose it all"; but he has not done now been the kind of romantic that stands before an oncoming train.

Could it be that Michael Foot wants at last to have the substance of the power for which he only reluctantly competed? The generalship is unorthodox. Foot's high command have not planned their next move forward, nor left any line of retreat.

It is hard to see how there can now be a truce between Foot's party and Benn's until one or other champion is routed; or how Foot can become more than a token leader until the Labour conference has somehow ratified his election.

If this is denied him, or if the Benn forces succeed in robbing MPs of any influence over the manifesto, as they well may, the party's allies think he may lose heart and go.

If the party rallies to him, it will still be several months before he can turn to his prime task, which the party's turmoil has prevented him from tackling, of trying to forge in Parliament a united team and programme to oppose the Government.

On many of the big questions—concerning the economy, defence, the Common Market—Michael Foot and the majority of his team are still at odds. The Benn faction has concealed these differences but only postponed their resolution. It has also engendered a certain comradeship in adversity, which may prove useful.

But the task which awaits him, if only his feeding party will let him put his hand to it, is formidable. His talent for it is still untested. And the day lifelong affinity with rebels, is far spent.

The one issue that unites Iran

Behind the high walls of the closed British Embassy in Tehran, the 11 British diplomats listening to the gunfire outside have grown used to the tensions, sound effects and graffiti that must be endured to keep a foot in the Iranian door.

As supporters of President Bani-Sadr clashed with Islamic extremists, and Revolutionary Guards fired warning shots and teargas grenades, the diplomats could ponder the curious fact that Ulster is about the only major issue nowadays that puts the President and his fundamentalist opponents on the same side.

The President and his arch-enemies in the Government, the Revolutionary Guards and other official bodies now engaged in the most bitter round of their endless political struggle, all send messages of condolence and support recently to Belfast after the death of Bobby Sands, the IRA hunger striker.

To get their feelings home, an official blue and white street sign has been fixed to the rear wall of the embassy compound. It says, in Persian, Bobby Sands Street. Let any passer-by should be unaware of exactly who Bobby Sands is, the sign carries underneath the explanation: "militant Irish guerrilla".

It is a far cry from the days when the British were honoured with the naming of the adjacent Churchill Street.

The death of Sands and three other Ulster hunger strikers has become a hot topic in Iran, a new weapon with which to beat the British "imperialists".

The casual observer might be surprised at the wide range of Iranian opinion that believes the British "oppressors" should stop their "bullying"

in Northern Ireland. But then he is probably unaware that many Iranians also cling to the belief that their own present situation is an "imperialist" plot to oppress them.

Iranian officials, press and television have gone to town on "Ulster". Bobby Sands' heroic death, said the official Press news agency, "was a blow to British imperialism".

The state television recently broadcast a documentary on Ulster, presenting the IRA case in fulsome and sympathetic detail. The next day a strong but virtually outworn guerrilla group quoted Sinn Féin officials as condemning the Iranian regime for holding political prisoners. The TV and radio counter-attacked with an official Sinn Féin statement.

Iranian newspapers have taken his personal vision of a social democratic future to the electors in the manner in which great nineteenth century leaders took their cause to the hustings.

The most fascinating question overhanging the campaign is whether he will launch the kind of centrist appeal that is characteristic of the Liberals who have for so long failed to make headway with it, or whether he sets his sights firmly on the modernist and patriotic vote of the left. "Half" of the nation which has traditionally supported the Labour Party but has little in common with the "new leftism" to which Labour is now prey.

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The game-sticken barrage from the last ditch which Mr. Foot, Mr. Healey, Mr. Shore, Mr. Hattersley, and even Mr. Michael Cox (the usually silent Chief Whip) fired off last week-end only substantiates the case for which the SDP went into political business. At Warrington, the Labour moderates will be hard put to differentiate themselves credibly from the man who seeks to take this seat from them.

For them, Warrington presents a dilemma. They must formally oppose Mr. Jenkins, which will be easier if Warrington chooses a moderate candidate. Yet in their hearts, Labour's remaining moderates must want him to win, if only to frighten the left against which they now belatedly offer resistance. How can they rationally argue against the SDP when doing so means that they timidly attempt by dribs and drabs?

The fact is that for the duration of the Warrington campaign, the Labour moderates will be uncomfortable, honourary, unacknowledged social democrats, knowing that the SDP is saying what only their additive dependence on the Labour Party machine prevents them from saying, too.

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The cost of
sterling's
slide, page 23

Business News

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Hard times hit
the gaming
tables, page 23

Stock markets
FT Ind 542.3 down 3.3
FT Gilts 66.19 up 0.38

Sterling
\$1.9715 up 31.0 pts
Index 95.0 up 0.4

Dollar
Index 108.5 down 1.0
DM 2.3682 down 328 pts

Gold
\$465.50 up \$9

Money
3 mth sterling 12 1/2-12 3/4
6 mth Euro 5.17-5.18
3 mth Euro 5.16-5.17

IN BRIEF

Westland cash for helicopter

Economies at the Ministry of Defence have forced Westland Aircraft to agree to contribute £2.75m to the first stage of the development of the EH 101 helicopter.

Westland announced with its interim figures yesterday that it had agreed to the payments in nine monthly tranches once the contract started.

Lord Aldington, Westland's chairman, also reported that the amount of private money going into the development of the WG 30 helicopter was increasing.

The Ministry is likely to decide within the next month whether it is to go ahead with the EH 101 contract, which involves a partnership between Westland and the Italian Agusta company.

The EH 101 is the replacement for the Sea King helicopter.

Financial Editor, page 23

Collins bid 'request'

News International yesterday said its 20th share bid (for William Collins) was made at the Collins family's request after News International bought a block of shares from the family's members. It said in its offer document that it would be content to remain Collins' largest shareholder with the 33.3 per cent of the ordinary voting capital it now owns.

OECD price rise

Consumer prices rose by 1 per cent in April in the 24 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, bringing the increase over 12 months down to 10.6 per cent. Japan has the lowest inflation rate at 5.2 per cent, less than half the OECD average.

Coke decision soon

The Government is expected to make an announcement on the funding of coke supplies to Britain's troubled iron foundry industry before the end of the month. The 600 foundry companies are pressing for subsidies to bring them into line with their European rivals.

BSC jobs cut

The British Steel Corporation has announced more than 120 redundancies at two of its plants in Sheffield. Unley Park Works, which loses 82 jobs and Stockbridge, where 40 jobs will be lost, make savings for motorcar manufacturers.

Nigerian oil output

Nigerian oil output fell in March by 10 per cent compared with February and by about 13.4 per cent compared with March 1980.

Loan for Russia

The Soviet Union has signed agreements on loans totalling 205,800m yen (£474.5m) from Japan's semi-official Export Bank and about 20 commercial banks for Siberian coal and timber development projects.

US tin compromise

The United States would agree to an International Tin Council buffer stock of 50,000 metric tons, 5,000 tons lower than it earlier insisted, if there is agreement on other issues, says Michael Smith, the American Trade Ambassador in Geneva.

Tobacco duties

Tobacco duties are expected to bring in 14.5 per cent more to the Government this year totalling an estimated £3.22bn, according to the Treasury.

£13m Shell plant

Shell's Belgian subsidiary is to set up a £13m plant at Ghent to manufacture catalyst carriers. The new plant will have a capacity of 2,260 tonnes a year and will come on stream at the end of 1982.

Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 0.56 point down to 993.88. The S&P 500 was 1.5460. The £ was 0.587535.

Keep down the lending rate Beckett says

By Peter Hill

The Government was urged yesterday not to respond to sterling's recent fall on foreign exchange markets by raising the minimum lending rate.

Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said a further increase in MLR would be a bitter pill for industry after all that it had swallowed in the past two years.

Speaking in London—as the pound again strengthened—Sir Beckett said that prospects for business and the economy were, on balance, brighter. The overvalued pound, he said, had inflicted a heavy toll on industry.

Although it had fallen against the United States dollar, the pound's trade-weighted average value, which mattered most, had dropped by only 8 per cent since the first quarter of this year.

"We have consistently argued during this past year that the high value of the pound has

been increasing industry's problems. And we have consistently urged the Government to create the freer off the exchange rate. This has now largely happened," Sir Terence said.

Speaking at the annual lunch of the Press Association, Sir Terence said there was no reason for the CBI to alter its view that a 10 per cent fall in the value of the pound was compatible with reducing inflation, so long as pay settlements were kept under control and industry's costs were not increased.

In a wide-ranging speech, Sir Terence attacked the Labour Party's proposals to take Britain out of the European Economic Community, which now accounts for 43 per cent of United Kingdom trade, and underlined industry's growing concern about the trade imbalance with Japan.

Voluntary restraint agreements with the Japanese were not enough, Japan had to agree to open up her market to British and European exports, and the Government had to ensure that Japanese investment in Britain did not become a Trojan horse.

Economic Notebook and Business Diary, page 23

Eagle Star continues move against Allianz

By Ronald Pullen

Eagle Star is planning to take its campaign against Allianz Versicherung's shareholding in the group to the regulatory authorities in Britain and Europe.

This follows last week's dawn raid and subsequent tender offer which has left Allianz, West Germany's leading insurance group, with a 28.1 per cent interest in Eagle Star.

Responding to remarks from Allianz that it would be seeking an early meeting with the Eagle Star board to discuss co-operation in both insurance and investment activities, Sir Denis Mountain, Eagle Star's chairman, said that the company would be looking for support from the authorities to prevent Allianz using its shareholding to influence group policy.

Eagle Star intends writing to the Office of Fair Trading in Britain, the German Kartell Office and the European Commission in Brussels asking for their views on the matter.

Mr Anthony Ratcliff, Eagle Star's chief general manager, said: "Our main concern is to ensure we are in a situation where our commercial independence cannot be influenced by a minority shareholder."

Allianz has stressed that it had no intention of buying more Eagle Star shares at present.

Talks between Eagle Star and Allianz on possible areas of commercial cooperation were broken off last year by Eagle Star.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Investment Office announced yesterday that it had sold seven million Eagle Star shares reducing its near 7 per cent stake below the 5 per cent level notifiable under company law.

Financial Editor, page 23

Cocoa deal to benefit Ivory Coast

In a further attempt to persuade the Ivory Coast to join the troubled International Cocoa Agreement, economists at the International Cocoa Organisation said yesterday that the agreement would raise the collective earnings of members by about £1,000m in 1981-2.

A report by the economists says that the Ivory Coast, which normally accounts for about a quarter of world's cocoa exports, would itself gain an extra £265m from the agreement.

The calculations are based on the assumptions that the 1981-2 world crop will be similar to the current season's 1.6m tonnes, and that prices will not fall below 80 cents a pound. The agreement is designed to support prices at 110 cents a pound once they reach that level.

The Ivory Coast has refused to sign the agreement because it believes the intervention level is too low. Two leading consumers, the United States and Germany, have also declined to join. But Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, is expected to convene a meeting at the end of June of countries who want to go ahead with the agreement.

While the future of the cocoa agreement remains in doubt, that of the sixth tin agreement, under discussion in Geneva, looked brighter yesterday. The United States made new proposals that would allow the buffer stock manager to borrow money against the security of governments' commitments to contribute to the fund.

Several thousand workers in the steel division of the huge West German Krupp industrial group are pinning their hopes of keeping their jobs on the revolutionary government in Iran.

The supervisory board of Krupp Stahl, which is considering management plans to cut the workforce by up to 5,000, has to approve all major decisions. It contains an equal number of shareholder and employee representatives, plus one "neutral man" who would cast the decisive vote in case of deadlock.

But today it appeared that one of the shareholder representatives, Mahmud Ahmed Sadeh-Herawi, of Tehran, would vote against the planned redundancies. Mr Sadeh-Herawi is Ayatollah Khomeini's man on the Krupp board. He is the Iranian industry Minister and represents the 25 per cent of Krupp Stahl capital that was sold to the Iranian government in the mid-1970s when Iran was keen to spend its oil wealth on buying western industrial expertise.

Last month when the management's plans were first put forward, Mr Sadeh-Herawi assumed the other shareholder representatives by objecting to the redundancy proposals and asking for more time to consider them.

Dollar hit by fear of US oil boycott by Arabs

By Frances Williams

The dollar fell sharply against all leading currencies on foreign exchange markets yesterday as interest rates tumbled and fears grew of Arab retaliation against the United States after Israel's bombing of Iraq's main nuclear reactor.

The dollar plunged by more than 34 pence against a generally stronger Deutsche mark to DM2.3682 at the end of London trading. Its trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies dropped 1.0 to 108.5 (average 1975=100), reflecting big losses against such currencies as sterling, the Swiss franc and the Japanese yen.

The pound gained 3.10 cents on the dollar, closing in London at £1.9715. Its trade-weighted index rose 0.4 to 95.0 with sterling stronger against most continental currencies.

The dollar plummeted in American and Far East markets overnight on news that Kuwaiti MPs had called for an Arab oil boycott of the United States in the wake of the Israeli reactor.

A modest recovery around midday in Europe was quickly reversed by falling American interest rates, which gave rise to speculation that rates have peaked for the time being. Chemical Bank cut its broker loan rate to 19 1/2 from 20 1/2 per cent and smaller banks cut their prime rates to 19 1/2 from 20 per cent. Most banks remain at 20 per cent.

The widely-watched Federal Reserve opened yesterday in New York at 1 1/4 per cent, down 3 per cent from Tuesday's close, and fell further to 1 1/4 per cent. This was taken as a clear indication of lower rates for some time being. The dollar's weakness and deposit rates dropped sharply. Three-month deposits slumped by nearly 2 percentage points to 16 1/2 per cent.

London interest rates were generally easier and dealers do not expect any rise in minimum lending rate today.

The dollar's weakness and easier American interest rates helped gold, which rose by \$3 to \$465.50 an ounce.

The society maintains that

Islamic business received its biggest encouragement to date yesterday when Prince Mohamed al-Faisal al-Saud, a member of the Saudi royal family, announced in Geneva the foundation of the Dar al-Islam or House of Islamic Funds, to be capitalised at \$1,000m (£515m).

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Although the new company is a trust registered in the Bahamas—administer

Economic notebook

The cost of sterling's slide

COMPANY ADDRESS _____

 POSTCODE _____
 POSITION IN COMPANY _____

BTH
Hotels

The Guardian Investment Trust Company Limited

Results for year ending 31st March 1981:

Ten Year Record	Gross Revenue	Earnings per Share	Net Dividend	Net Asset Value
Year to 31st March	£'000	p.	p.	p.
1971	1,588	2.18	1.21	72.9
1979	3,162	3.18	3.15	122.5
1980	3,856	4.69	4.60	106.7
1981	3,981	4.78	4.70	147.7

Assets spread as follows:

UK 76% N. America 10% Far East 11%
Other Areas 3%

*Including special dividend of 0.70p

The Guardian Investment Trust Company Limited
P&O Building (2nd Floor), 122 Leadenhall Street, London EC3V 4QR
Tel: 01-283 2400.

Pegler 13pc down but shares rise

Shares of engineering group Pegler-Hattersley jumped 8p to 176p yesterday in spite of a 13 per cent drop in its pre-tax profits to £10.9m for the year to March 28. The dividend has been maintained at 13.6p gross.

Group sales of £112m against £110m were boosted by turnover of £9m from the first full year of European distributor Hovac, bought in late 1979. Group trading profits fell by two fifths to £4.4m, with the biggest fall in the building products division where demand has been very poor for more than a year. All British divisions made lower profits.

Associated companies increased their contribution from £4.93m to £6.15m with most of that coming from South Africa. The figures include sales months' profit from McEvoy sold towards the end of the year for £16.5m.

Part of that was used to eliminate debt, and the bulk remains on deposit while the group looks for acquisitions in the United Kingdom and abroad. Interest received in 1980-81 totalled £1m against interest costs of £516,000, the year before.

Lower copper prices meant that stocks of copper-based alloys had to be depreciated by £710,000, against appreciation of £760,000 in 1979-80, before striking the pretax profit. An extraordinary credit of £15m included profits on the McEvoy sale after group redundancy costs and provisions of £3.65m, reflecting the loss of 1,500 jobs.

Gilts recover their confidence

Gilts staged a modest rally yesterday on further consideration of the encouraging banking figures and the firmer pound.

Otherwise, the market was extremely subdued with leading equities still dominated by fears of a possible rights issue from BP. Although the day passed with no such call, the rumours continued unabated that BP will, whether it be this week or over the next year, make a fund raising call in the region of £400m. Last night a BP spokesman declined to comment. It was enough to keep investors away and share prices, after opening slightly better, drifted lower during the day to perk up by the close.

The troubled labour outlook, rising inflation and the interest to the unsettled conditions. News of the prime rate cuts from small banks in the United States also helped the revived confidence in the gilt market. With prospects of a rise in interest rates easing, dealers reported reasonable buying activity.

Longs opened better and rises were consolidated through the day. Wall Street's firm opening also helped and by the close rises of up to 1 1/2 were made. After a 1 1/2 gain in the morning, shorts held a good rally to record rises of 1 1/2 at the better end.

The FT index rose 0.2 to 545.4 at 10 pm but by noon had fallen to 541.8. It hovered at about this level for the rest of the afternoon to pick up and closed 3.3 down at 542.3.

Investors stayed away from blue chip shares which drifted aimlessly through the session. Dealers described slack trade with most leaders at narrowly mixed prices at the close. ICI 2p up at 278p and Glaxo a similar gain to 364p, were among the exceptions. Fisons ended 2p down at 146p, Dunlop 2p lower at 77p and Metal Box 6p at 178p. Bass, after previous day's results, was unchanged at 242p and British Aerospace was 4p off at 225p. Unilever stayed at 576p.

After the previous day's spotlight, both the banking and insurance sectors were dull. Royal Bank of Scotland, after talk of the possibility of a go-ahead for Hongkong Bank's bid slipped back 4p to 186p. The four clearers eased later on rumours of a potential United States bid, with Barclays 3p lower at 410p, Midland 4p at 331p and National Westminster

5p down at 358p. Lloyds eased 2p to 351p. Eagle Star, after Allianz's 28.1 per cent tender stake, came back from suspension to add 7p to 290p but closed back at 285p. The recent profit-taking in the other composites saw prices lower. GRE dropped 6p to 300p, General Accident lost 8p to 318p and Commercial Union 4p to 167p. Royal eased 10p to 390p, Phoenix 8p to 278p and Sun Alliance, after its big gains, 14p to 870p.

Buildings were another sombre sector and with no offer coming yet from RTZ for Tunnel Holdings, shares dropped back 12p to 430p, 5p below the offer price from TFW Ward, which fell 5p to 125p.

Housebuilders were also dull performers as sentiment had been looking for a downturn in interest rates.

The oil sector opened looking

ragged, overshadowed by talk of the BP rights issue. But shares picked up when an announcement followed, and finished during the day. Jobbers reported sizable selling orders from the United Kingdom and overseas clients and a number of new buyers in the United Kingdom. BP, after firming 4p to 358p, dropped back to 354p. Shell put on 2p to 348p and Lasso added 15p to 352p. Trelcentral rose 6p to 226p, and Ultramar 5p to 448p.

Equity turnover for June 9 was £131,828m (bargains 15,468). Active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were BP, ICI, Distillers and GEC.

Traded options: A total of 931 contracts were completed, Lasso attracted 21, Marks and Spencer 16, Lough 5, ICI 124, and GEC 4.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
	£m	£m	per share	pence	pence	total
Im or Fin	7.27(17.73)	3.3(3.97)	29.7(46.9)	2.0(2.0)	6/8	4.9(3.0)
Barlow Hedges (F)	119.2(116.8)	6.5(11.38)	6.22(6.88)	3(7.25)	16/10	8(12.25)
B Elliott (F)	6.11(12.27)	0.58(1.12)	6.22(6.88)	1(1.5)	—	—
Elson & Robbins (I)	9.32(4.9)	0.88(0.92)	—	2.25(0)	26/8	—
F French (I)	4.77(4.67)	0.28(0.71)	9.59(18.93)	—	—	—
Geevor Tin (F)	375(366)	18.2(16.1)	10.7(9.0)	4.2(3.7)	—	4.25(8.5)
Hanson Tst (I)	—	0.13(4.62)	2.1(6.8)	1.07(1.07)	—	1.07(1.07)
L & O F (F)	15.9(13.1)	0.38(0.44)	8.02(8.02)	2.6(2.4)	—	3.51(3.25)
Nina Gold (F)	112.4(109.9)	10.8(12.5)	23.4(28.6)	5.5(5.5)	11/8	9.5(9.5)
Pegler Hst (F)	68.5(73.3)	10.5(14.3)	14.0(18.2)	4.75(5.5)	12/8	6.25(6.25)
Uit Spring (I)	9.78(15.1)	0.17(1.02)	1.62(4.08)	—	—	—
Westland Air (I)	118.4(105.4)	12.4(10.6)	11.6(12.1)	2.5(2.0)	30/6	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. — Loss; + Includes special dividend of 1.0p.

This advertisement has been issued by British Sugar Corporation Limited

WHEN DOES
2+2=3?

IF YOU
MAKE
A MISTAKE.

Put two mis-matched companies together and you have a recipe for industrial muddle. And that is the risk if Berisford takes over British Sugar.

British Sugar as an independent company has a first-class track record. Pre-tax profits have been increased six-fold since 1975; market share has been doubled. The £150 million investment programme to make key factories bigger and more efficient has been completed in time and to budget. British Sugar now has factories as good as the best in Europe.

Forecast pre-tax profits for 1981 are up by 43 per cent on 1980. Forecast dividends for 1981 are up by 43 per cent on 1980.

British Sugar is united against the bid. Senior management, the other employees and Trade Unions which represent them have expressed vigorous opposition.

Why? Simply because they recognise that Berisford are primarily commodity traders, and ill-equipped to manage a capital-intensive industrial company.

And Britain is hardly so full of industrial success stories like British Sugar's, that it makes sense for shareholders to gamble on a merger between two fundamentally mis-matched companies.

British Sugar should remain successful and independent — through shareholders rejecting this risky bid.

REJECT THE BID.

BRITISH SUGAR
CORPORATION LIMITED
THE RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

The publication of this advertisement has been approved by a duly authorised committee of the Board of British Sugar Corporation Limited. Each Director has taken all reasonable care to ensure that both the facts stated and the opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. Each Director of British Sugar Corporation Limited accepts responsibility accordingly.

B Elliott slips to £6m despite overseas lift

By Rosemary Unsworth

Overseas results ensured that B. Elliott, the machine tool manufacturer and engineering products group, stayed in profit last year. Pretax profits slipped from £13.8m to £5.5m in the year to March 31, while turnover rose slightly from £116.8m to £119.2m, with more than half of that going abroad.

About 90 per cent of profits came from the overseas operations with South Africa contributing £4.7m and showing an 83 per cent increase. North America's profits were maintained at £900,000 while Australia doubled its result to £400,000.

In the UK, machine tool and engineering made losses of £600,000 against £2m profit and merchandising profits went down

sharply from £5.5m to £740,000. Mr Mark Russell, the chairman, warned that there would be UK losses in the first half of this year with order books at the present low levels.

The final dividend has been more than halved to 4.3p gross, giving a total of 11.42p against 17.5p last year. The shares rose 2p to 166p after the announcement.

The group has charged £2.14m in closure costs below the line and £640,000 above it for redundancies on continuing operations. During the year the group shed one third of its 3,000 workforce with three factories ceasing operations. Interest charges were up from £152,000 to £131,000 as borrowings rose from £476,000 to £6.6m.

Goldsmiths' 40 pc fall

After a more than doubled interest charge of £104,000, against £46,000, pretax profits of £648,000, to £383,000 in the year to February 28.

A break-down of profits shows that the retail jewelry side slumped from £443,000 to £175,000, while the bookmaking section was steady at £208,000, compared with £205,000. Group turnover expanded from £13.19m to £15.99m. The board has lifted the gross dividend from 4.64p to 5.01p.

Geevor Tin omits dividend after loss

No dividend is being paid for the 12 months to March 31, 1981, by Geevor Tin Mines, against a total of 12p gross for the previous year. The company slumped from a pretax profit of £714,000 to a loss of £285,000. Turnover improved slightly, from £4.67m to £4.77m.

Barlow Holdings pays special dividend

Barlow Holdings, the London-based plantation-owning and investment holding group, is paying a final dividend of 2.85p, as well as a special dividend of 1.42p, for 1980. This makes a total of 5.27p, against 4.28p gross last year. Pretax profits slipped from £3.97m to £3.3m on turnover down from £7.73m to £7.27m. Both the final and the special payment will be paid from realized profits on the sale of Klabang Estate of £3.64m net.

Trident Computer gets placing on USM

Singer and Friedlander has arranged the placings of the unlisted securities market of 375,000 ordinary 10p shares in Trident Computer Services at 90p per share. The placing represents 15 per cent of the issued share capital.

Trident's activities range from permanent staff recruitment and the maintenance of mini and micro computer systems and associated software to the provision of computer advice. Over the last five years profits have risen from £12,000 to £296,000. The forecast for the current year to July 31 is not less than £310,000. The directors intend to recommend a dividend of 1.0p.

Thomas French dips to £882,000

In spite of the recession, Thomas French and Sons achieved a pretax profit of £882,000 in the half-year to March 23, 1981. This compares with the record figure of £926,000 for the similar period last year. Turnover was up from £8.9m to £9.32m. The interim payment, gross, is being lifted from 2.85p to 3.21p.

French makes curtain styling products and electrical heating equipment.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	12%
Barclays	12%
BCCI	12%
Consolidated Crds	12%
C. Hoare & Co	12%
Lloyds Bank	12%
Midland Bank	12%
Nat Westminster	12%
TSB	12%
Williams and Glyn's	12%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £50,000 10%
£50,000 10%
£50,000 10%

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross	Yld	P/E	July
76	39	39	Airprang Group	78	—	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4
52	21	21	Armitage & Rhodes	48	—	1.4	2.9	19.8	45.7
200	92	92	Bardon Hill	200	—	9.7	4.9	7.5	12.8
104	88	88	Deborah Services	104	—	5.5	5.3	5.1	9.8
126	88	88	Frank Horsell	104	—	6.4	6.2	3.3	6.0
110	39	39	Frederick Parker	62	—	1.7	2.7	27.0	—
110	64	64	George Blair	64	—	3.1	4.8	—	—
110	39	39	Jackson Group	104	—	7.0	6.7	3.3	7.4
129	103	103	James Burroughs	129	—	7.9	6.1	10.6	10.6
334	244	244	Robert Jenkins	316	—	31.3	9.9	—	—
55	50	50	Scotons "A"	55	—	5.3	9.6	8.5	7.9
224	196	196	Torday Limited	197	—	15.1	7.7	7.6	13.0
23	8	8	Twinkl Ord	15	—	—	—	—	—
90	68	68	Twinkl 15%, ULS	80	—	15.0	18.8	—	—
56	35	35	Unblock Holdings	42	—	3.0	7.1	6.5	10.3
103	81	81	Walter Alexander	102	—	5.7	5.6	5.6	9.0
263	181	181	W. S. Yeates	255	—	13.1	5.2	4.8	9.8

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

'Wedgie-gate' tapes shock Labour MPs

By George Clark, Political Correspondent

Labour backbenchers heard with dismay last night about the so-called "Wedgie-gate" tapes which have been put together by Mr Michael Cocks, the Opposition chief whip, and which are alleged to contain Mr Wedgwood Benn's appeal for support in the contest for the deputy leadership of the party.

With Mr Benn extending his stay in hospital to a second week for further tests, his backbench supporters were angry that the Labour chief whip, a colleague in the Shadow Cabinet, should have used this method of "underhand attack", as they saw it.

The five-minute tape recording, which will be available for wider circulation to local Labour parties, consists of Mr Benn's voice speaking at the last Labour Party conference, and a counter-commentary. His speech was a virulent attack on the party leadership for not including many conference decisions in the last general election manifesto.

Mr Benn is heard to claim that five union-backed conference decisions, including those on the introduction of a wealth tax, import controls, increased public spending and a cut in arms spending, were left out of the manifesto.

Over his voice is superimposed the voice of a woman who quotes chapter and verse from the 1979 manifesto to counter Mr Benn's points.

A senior member of the party executive, a left-winger who is by no means a Bennite, said: "This is a smear campaign which in the end will turn out to be Mr Benn's advantage". He preferred not to be named because he is alarmed about the present schism in the party and the lengths to which some members are prepared to go.

Mr Cocks made the tape with the help of Mr Len Smith, a Bristol City Labour councillor, and Mr Smith's daughter, Mrs Margaret Ann Rishmiller.

Everything on the tape is a matter of public record, all I have done is to collate various points and now I want people to hear them", Mr Cocks said. "Everything said there is true and it is important that people should know. I do not see how

anyone could get upset about them if they believe in freedom of information."

Mr Smith said: "I hope the tape will show this gentleman [Mr Benn] up for what he is. It is not acceptable to the Labour Party, it might be hostile to Mr Benn, but if he puts inaccuracies into his speech, he has to suffer that."

Mrs Rishmiller, aged 25, a clerk, said: "It was the general attitude of Mr Benn that made us do it."

Mr Cocks' constituency party chairman, Mr Victor Jackson, was reported as saying that he would be surprised if Mr Cocks had been involved in the making of the tape. "As an individual he has a right to do as he likes. Whether the constituency party will agree with him is another matter."

Our Medical Correspondent writes: Mr Benn's illness is understood to affect his legs and to be neurological, which implies some disorder either of the nerves or muscles. It could be anything from a short-lived inflammation of the nerves to a more serious and prolonged muscle disease.

The diagnosis of neurological disorders is often a lengthy business especially if specimens of muscle or blood vessels have to be removed and examined microscopically. Speculation about the outcome is futile until a firm diagnosis has been made.

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour Party leader, yesterday dismissed claims by supporters of Mr Wedgwood Benn that a witch-hunt was in progress against him (Our Labour Editor writes from Brighton). In a statement of his differences with the left-wing challenger for the deputy leadership Mr Foot rejected the idea as a strange proposition and untrue.

Speaking at the policy conference of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, he said the principal reason he asked Mr Benn to stand against him was a desire to end the party's internal controversies.

It was the first time in history an alleged witch had been invited to contest the leadership, he said.

Brezhnev letter, page 8



King Khalid and Mrs Thatcher after talks and luncheon at 10 Downing Street yesterday. Report, page 3.

Social worker criticized over baby

Continued from page 1

thigh bone and bruising to her forehead, right cheek, below her right eye, and around her right knee and thigh. Subsequent examination of X-rays taken showed that she also had three fractured ribs.

Those injuries were the third sustained by the child, but because previous suspicions were not communicated, the incident was treated as an isolated one though sufficiently alarming for immediate action to be taken. The baby's father was charged and subsequently convicted of causing actual bodily harm. He was placed on probation for two years.

A case conference was convened at the hospital on January 23 and adjourned for a week while a safety order was obtained and more information gathered. The family doctor declined to attend the conference because he considered them a waste of time, for which the report criticizes him.

A representative of the juvenile bureau was also absent but two detectives, acting as well as a nursing officer, the health visitor who first took action, and two social workers from Southwark.

When the conference reconvened, relevant information about previous suspicions of abuse and feeding difficulties were not considered. Adminis-

trative decisions were taken, but the baby's future was not considered. She remained in hospital for nearly six months, while a succession of interim care orders were obtained.

She was finally discharged from hospital on June 13 to foster parents who could have taken her in February, which would have been a happy release, according to the report. A conference on July 6 decided that she should be sent home to her parents.

The first home visit was on July 25 when the probation officer collected her from the foster parents and delivered her to her parents, Lorraine and Osman, a 22-year-old Turkish Cypriot, then living at Thurlow Street, Southwark, London. The social worker visited that evening and found them "happy, relaxed and being very much a family". Then he went on leave and returned on the day of an official strike, which he joined. He never saw the child again.

Her home visits continued, with social work assistants taking over the job of collecting her from the foster home and taking her to her parents. Both assistants noticed that Maria had facial scratches and bruising, and the foster mother was worried about her condition.

A senior social worker failed to grasp the significance of

injuries reported to him and did not tell a superior. That was a serious error, the report says.

Despite the danger signals, a case conference on October 11 decided to continue with the plan to send the baby home full-time though still on trial and subject to a care order. She went home on October 16. Nine days later she was found to have lost 11.5oz in weight in a week, but the health visitor took no action.

She was admitted to hospital on October 31, suffering from severe brain damage, a fractured skull, a bite mark and multiple minor bruises. She died four days later. Her father was sentenced to nine months imprisonment for causing actual bodily harm, but cleared of manslaughter.

The report comments: "The surveillance during the final week was limited due to shortage of workers and leave periods but by the time of her return, full-time no extent of her condition could have been guaranteed her safety. As we have indicated the errors and failures came earlier."

Maria, Mohammed, Report of an Independent Inquiry, published by London Borough of Southwark, Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority, and the Inner London Probation and After-care Service. Available from Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB, £5.50.

Petrol giants set to raise prices

By Edward Townsend

Mobil is expected to be the next oil company to announce a big increase in United Kingdom petrol prices from midnight tonight, adding up to 10p on a gallon of four-star.

The new round of increases comes after BP Oil's decision to end subsidies to its 5,000 BP and National filling stations in an attempt to end the petrol price war.

Esso and Shell, the market leaders, will also be raising their prices but will not make formal announcements until their retailers have been told. About 60 per cent of Mobil's 1,200 petrol stations in Britain are in town and city centres. The company claims that its profit margins on sales have been more adversely affected by discounting than others.

Mobil calculates that in the highly competitive urban areas price support for retailers has averaged 10p a gallon. The new price increases, it hopes, will provide garages with a 7p a gallon margin, just enough to make a profit.

It is almost certain that all of the big oil companies will follow BP's lead and that rural price increases of between 15p and 16p will be commonplace.

Police take over from the ambulancemen

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

Police vans and squad cars were used to provide emergency cover yesterday after 500 Scottish ambulancemen staged an unannounced 24-hour strike which left the city of Glasgow without any service.

Ambulancemen in Strathclyde and Argyll walked out early in the morning after being told that local union officials had decided to call a lightning all-out strike, six days before next week's scheduled national one-day ban on all work except emergency calls.

Police, operating a contingency plan, ferried the injured and seriously ill people to hospital and by last night had handled 89 emergency calls. Police disclosed that personnel carried equipment with stretchers and blankets had been prepared in case of serious industrial or domestic accidents.

Police reported that most of the emergency calls had been patients who had collapsed from illness including heart and asthma attacks. One of the most serious accidents, minutes after the strike began, was a head-on road crash just outside the Stobhill Hospital in the north-west of the city.

Local union officials said that the action, which had apparently been planned in secret on Tuesday, had attracted 100 per cent response in the affected areas, including Paisley and Greenock, and with a total population of 1.75 million.

Elsewhere, the relief of some union officials at 530 Northern Ireland ambulancemen voted yesterday to support the union's call to join the officially planned stoppage on Wednesday. London ambulancemen are due to take part in a 24-hour strike on Monday in protest at the Department of Health and Social Security's 6 per cent pay offer.

Mr Ronald Keating, national officer of the National Union of Public Employees, said that the action in Scotland illustrated the strength of feeling.

"These people have seen the armed forces, the police and the firemen win rises which are more or less index linked and the ambulancemen feel they have been left out in the cold again", he said.

Mr John Elliott, Transport and General Workers' Union district officer in Glasgow, made clear last night that any plans for further lightning strikes in the west of Scotland would be considered by union officials today.

Scottish ambulancemen's leaders have issued a warning that they will again be on strike, calls when they take part in next Wednesday's national industrial action. Pressure in Wales and South Yorkshire was also said to have been building up for an all-out one-day action.

The Department of Health and Social Security last night told health authorities that troops would only be brought in if police and voluntary services proved incapable of coping with the effects of walkouts by ambulancemen.

Photograph, page 3

Minister disturbed by film

By Nicholas Timmins

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said last night that ATV's programme *Silent Minority* was very moving and very disturbing. He added: "This is why I have asked the health authorities to investigate."

But the programme was wrong in stating that the Department of Health and Social Security's policy was to maintain the largest mental hospitals, and it had concentrated on some of the worst aspects of the care provided."

St Lawrence's Hospital, Caterham, one of the two hospitals featured in the programme, had some bungalow accommodation where patients lived much more normal lives

in a more domestic setting. The fact that children at the hospital received schooling was now mentioned in the commentary, but was not shown.

Mr Jenkin said: "Since 1971 it has been the policy of successive governments to move mentally handicapped people into the community and to run down the large hospitals. In 10 years the number of children in such hospitals has been reduced from 7,000 to 2,800 and is falling."

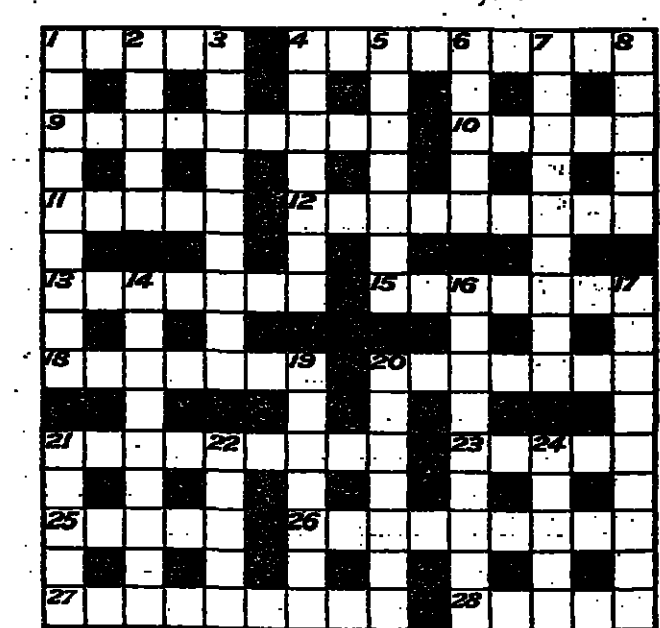
The Spastics Society has submitted a request for £50,000 to the Department to establish a second special unit for mentally handicapped children on the lines of Beach Area House, featured in the programme.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

The Queen opens National Westminster Tower, 11.30 am.
The Duke of Edinburgh, as Chancellor of University of Cambridge attends honorary degree ceremony and confers honorary degrees, Senate House, University of Cambridge, 10.35 am.
His Majesty King Khalid of Saudi Arabia entertains the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at a banquet, Claridge's, 8.30 pm.
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother opens physiotherapy department, King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, 3.30 pm.
Princess Margaret attends beating retreat by regimental bands of the Queen's Guard, Horse Guards, Whitehall, 6.25 pm.
The Duke of Gloucester visits South of England Show, Ardingly, Sussex, 10.30 am; attends banquet accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester.

The Times Crossword No. 15,549



- ACROSS**
- Pay by a quarter to eight, perhaps (5).
 - Little boy and relatives found to be (9).
 - Musical might be played on board (9).
 - Nurse initially holds business to bar (7).
 - Another main centre for heat (5).
 - Current user of car becomes drunk without a complaint (4-5).
 - Inclined to favour the family man (7).
 - His love no longer missed (7).
 - Some surprise if it's raised (7).
 - He complains right after the game (7).
 - Play upon words? Just the opposite perhaps (9).
 - Demand made about letters in mail (5).
 - State of the Oriental scholar? (5).
 - Outfit for partner of 15 (9).
 - Fish makes how before dance (6-3).
 - Break in court proceedings (5).
- DOWN**
- Material of transport raised, and position of driver (9).
 - Rascal identified by accent - lost head (5).
 - Reading that would reveal a certain power (9).
 - A fit tonic for treatment of an African banker (7).
 - Housing for two dozen singers (7).
 - Upholder of Turner's work? (5).
 - Weed seen by bird and haymaker (9).
 - Musical of the Muses? (5).
 - Exactness of summary upset no-one (9).
 - Entertainment patients found in museum, perhaps (4-5).
 - Mistle thrown at speaker in Devon (9).
 - Sound surprised the painter hasn't finished (7).
 - Side taken to cook-painful thing (7).
 - Funny little volume-order one in (5).
 - Author's predecessor remembered by Dr Watson (5).
 - Girl makes note of the French style (5).
- Solution of Puzzle No 15,548**
-

Gloucester given by King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, Claridge's, 8.15 pm.
The Duke of Kent, president of King Edward VII Hospital for Officers attends opening of new physiotherapy department by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 3.25 pm; accompanied by the Duchess of Kent attends Swedish Chamber of Commerce Dinner, Dorchester Hotel, 7.25 pm.
Festival of Flowers presented by National Association of Arrangement Societies, Westminster Abbey, 9 am-9 pm.
Antiquarian Book Fair, Europa Hotel, Grosvenor Square, 11 am-8 pm. Last day.
Talks, lectures
Excavating William Paget's Manor House by Jon Cotton, Museum of London, 1.10 pm.
Bath Geological Society: the water supply of Bath since Roman times by R J Whitaker, Kimball Room, 18 Queen Square, Bath, 7 pm.
Cuckoo, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, 3 pm.
Exhibitions
Royal Academy Schools finals exhibition, Royal Academy, Piccadilly, 10 am-6 pm. Last day.
"Trolleybus" - the story of the trolleybus from earliest experiments by von Siemens in Germany to the present day, London Transport Museum, 39 Wellington Street, 10 am-6 pm.
New Exhibition, 1, Arncliffe Gallery, Narrow Quay, Bristol, 11 am-8 pm.
Lunchtime music
Life Guards Band, Paternoster Square, noon.
Suzanne Pinkerton, soprano, Nicholas Byron, piano, St Mary-le-Bow, 1.05 pm.

Anniversaries
John Constable, painter, was born at East Bergholt, Suffolk, 1776, and Richard Strauss, composer, at Munich, 1864.

Roads
London and the South East: The ceremony of beating retreat will be performed again tonight. Horse Guards approach road will be closed from 5.30 pm, while restrictions in many other roads including Birdcage Walk and The Mall will be imposed at 6 pm for about two hours. There will be only one lane open on the southbound carriageway of the M1 between junctions 8 (Hemel Hempstead) and 7 (M10 interchange). This closure operates from 8 pm until 6 am.

Midlands: M1 - Due to cracks and subsidence between junction 26 (Northampton) and junction 27 (Macclesfield) a speed limit applies on the southbound carriageway where only one lane is open. Local M1 between junctions 9 (Wolverhampton) and 10 (Wolverhampton) is closed completely. Northbound entry and exit roads are closed at junction 9. Southbound entry prohibited to

The Pound

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.80	1.73
Austria Sch	34.40	32.30
Belgium Fr	80.50	76.50
Canada Cdn	2.26	2.24
Denmark Kr	15.18	14.48
Finland Mk	9.05	8.65
France Fr	11.40	10.90
Germany DM	4.60	4.50
Hong Kong \$	11.20	10.60
Ireland £	1.32	1.26
Italy L	2375.00	2275.00
Japan Yn	470.00	445.00
Netherlands Gld	5.38	5.12
Norway Kr	11.38	11.38
Portugal Esc	135.00	119.00
South Africa R	2.15	2.00
Spain Pta	168.00	179.00
Sweden Kr	10.35	9.88
Switzerland Fr	2.26	2.15
USA \$	2.02	1.95
Yugoslavia Dnr	77.00	72.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only. Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency.
London: FT index closed at 545.6 (2.3 down).
New York: The Dow Jones Industrial average closed 0.56 point to 983.88.

New coins

Ten years after decimalisation the design of the penny and the reverse of the two pence coins has been dropped from the Royal Mint's design of the new coins. This has allowed the Royal Mint to divide the year date and simplify the reverse design of the coins. A presentation set of the seven coins, which includes the new penny and the two pence coins, is available from the Coinage Adviser, States Treasury, Jersey, CI, at a cost of £2.50. Details of the Royal Mint Proof Set of these coins are also available on request.

The papers

Prince Philip comes in for some criticism from the Daily Mirror today. He said yesterday that a few years ago people wanted more leisure today when they're not employed. Says the Mirror: "People want jobs which pay well enough for leisure to be enjoyed." The Prince's remark was immediately seized upon by the press as a criticism of the leisure industry. The Prince's remark was also seized upon by the press as a criticism of the leisure industry. The Prince's remark was also seized upon by the press as a criticism of the leisure industry.

Telegraph, Sheffield accuses the Government of turning a blind eye to the welfare of reports emphasizing the harm United Kingdom energy prices are doing. In a comment on a dissemination against women, the Northern Echo, Darlington, says legislation is not the entire answer.

A broad main editorial in the New York Times criticizes the Reagan administration's lack of support for positive action programmes to improve the condition of black people. The Washington Post discusses nuclear non-proliferation in the light of the Israeli air-strike last Sunday. Le Monde, in Paris, comments on the exceptional success to finance 6.5 thousand million francs supplementary expenditure by the government.

Times worldwide

Noon in London is 6 am in New York; 3 am in San Francisco; 8 pm in Tokyo; 9 pm in Canberra; 1 pm in Johannesburg; 3 pm in United Arab Emirates; 2 pm in Kenya; 4 pm in Nigeria; 2 pm in Moscow; 7 pm in Hong Kong.

Parliament

Commons (2.30): Debate on effect of Government policies on the economy. Lords (3): Transport Bill, committee. Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill and Insurance Companies Bill, third readings.

Auctions today

Sotheby's Bond St: Old Master drawings 10.30 and 2.30. Scientific instruments, watches and clocks 11.0 and 2.30. Printed books 11.30. Sotheby's, Regent St: Oriental works of art 11.30. Christie's, King St: English furniture, eastern rugs and carpets 11 and 2.30. Finest and rarest wines 11.30. Christie's, South Kensington: Oriental works of art 10.30. European ceramics 2.30. Phillips, Blenheim St: Books, ensembles, maps and memorabilia 1.30. Scientific instruments, watches and clocks 11.0 and 2.30. Printed books 11.30. Christie's, Regent St: Oriental works of art 10.30. European ceramics 2.30. Phillips, Blenheim St: Books, ensembles, maps and memorabilia 1.30. Scientific instruments, watches and clocks 11.0 and 2.30. Printed books 11.30.

Sporting fixtures

Crickets: Holt Products Trophy (11.30 to 6.30); Derbyshire v Australia, County championships (11.0 to 6.30). Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire at Bristol; Hampshire v Glamorgan at Bourne-mouth; Kent v Worcestershire at Tunbridge Wells; Lancashire v Warwickshire at Manchester; Surrey v Westsiders at the Oval. Other matches (11.30 to 6.30): Cambridge University v Sussex at Cambridge; Oxford University v Middlesex at Oxford. Equestrianism: Cornwall Show at Wadebridge; South of England Show at Ardingly. Golf: Greater Manchester Open at Wilmslow; EGU Seniors championship at Copt Heath, Solihull. Racing: Meetings at Beverley, Newbury. Rowing: Cambridge May Races. Tennis: Queen's Club tournament; Sutton Court. Yachting: Weymouth Olympic Week.

Weather

Frontal trough will be slow moving in S but pressure will slowly build from NW.

Forecasts from 6 am to midnight

London, SE England, East Anglia: Mostly cloudy, some rain, mainly early and late; wind, moderate to fresh, locally strong westerly, becoming fair; max temp 18 to 20C (64 to 68F).
SW England, Central England, Channel Islands: S Wales: Mostly cloudy, rain or drizzle in places tending to die out inland, perhaps bright intervals in well sheltered places; moderate to strong westerly wind, becoming moderate; max temp 18 to 20C (64 to 68F).
Wales, E. central N England, N Wales: Outbreaks of rain doing out: wind variable, moderate to strong; max temp 17C (63F).
NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Occasional rain but with sunny periods; wind E, then NE, moderate; max temp 17C (63F).
Wales, E. central N England, N Wales: Outbreaks of rain doing out: wind variable, moderate to strong; max temp 17C (63F).
NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Occasional rain but with sunny periods; wind E, then NE, moderate; max temp 17C (63F).

Lighting up time

London 9.47 pm; SE England, East Anglia 9.56 pm; SW England, Central England, Channel Islands, S Wales 10.00 pm; W Wales, E. central N England, N Wales 10.05 pm; NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man 10.10 pm; Wales, E. central N England, N Wales 10.15 pm; NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man 10.20 pm; Wales, E. central N England, N Wales 10.25 pm; NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man 10.30 pm; Wales, E. central N England, N Wales 10.35 pm; NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man 10.40 pm; Wales, E. central N England, N Wales 10.45 pm; NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man 10.50 pm; Wales, E. central N England, N Wales 10.55 pm; NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man 11.00 pm; Wales, E. central N England, N Wales 11.05 pm; NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man 11.10 pm; Wales, E. central N England, N Wales 11.15 pm; NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man 11.20 pm; Wales, E. central N England, N Wales 11.25 pm; NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man 11.30 pm; Wales, E. central N England, N Wales 11.35 pm; 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